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WAGENER (W. W.). **Diseases of Cypresses.**—*El Aliso*, 1948, 1, pp. 255–321, 8 pl., 1948.

In this comprehensive study on the diseases of *Cupressus* the author states that galls, caused by *Gymnosporangium cupressi* [*R.A.M.*, xx, p. 2] were found in two restricted localities in Arizona on *C. glabra* and *C. arizonica*. Old planted native Monterey cypresses [*C. macrocarpa*] at several points in California show quite commonly a brown, friable pocket rot of the heartwood, probably caused by *Polyporus basilaris* [cf. *ibid.*, xxi, p. 313]; the same host is also being attacked by *P. cutifractus*. Crown gall (*Phytomonas* [*Bacterium*] *tumefaciens*) [*ibid.*, xv, p. 138] occurs on *C. arizonica* in cultivated ground, but inoculated *C. glabra* failed to develop galls. The latter species is moderately susceptible to Texas root rot (*Phymatotrichum omnivorum*). *Armillaria mellea* has been found on native Tecate cypress [*C. forbesii*] and occasionally attacks Monterey cypresses in California. *Phomopsis juniperovora* [*ibid.*, vi, p. 328] has been isolated from several species of cypresses in the United States, but causes no serious damage in south-western States, probably owing to the lower humidity during the growing season in that part of the country.

Most of the work on *Coryneum* canker (*C. cardinale*) [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 452], the most destructive of the *Cupressus* diseases, has already been noticed, but the following may be mentioned: the fungus has been isolated from *C. abramsiana*, *C. arizonica*, *C. forbesii*, *C. goveniana*, *C. lusitanica*, *C. macnabiana*, *C. macrocarpa*, *C. pygmaea*, *C. sargentii*, *C. sempervirens stricta*, *Thuja orientalis*, *T. plicata*, *Libocedrus decurrens*, *Juniperus chinensis femina*, and in New Zealand from *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. *Coryneum cardinale* differs from all the five species of *Coryneum* with 5-septate spores which have been found on conifers. In California, in addition to these, a 5-septate species occurs on *Cupressus macrocarpa* as a saprophyte, and another which causes cankers on the Coast Redwood [*Sequoia sempervirens*]. Inoculations with the latter pathogen induced cankers in *C. macrocarpa*.

The optimum temperature for growth of *Coryneum cardinale* is about 26° C., the minimum slightly below 5°, and the maximum about 34°. The optimum temperature for the saprophytic species of *Coryneum* is about 18°. In dry, protected situations spores may retain their viability for many months. On exposed leaves they still showed 29 per cent. viability after 48 days. Based on the results of numerous field tests, the New World cypresses and other conifers were arranged in five groups according to their probable susceptibility in the field; *Cupressus macrocarpa* is listed as the most susceptible; *C. arizonica*, *C. bakeri*, *C. glabra*, *C. guadalupensis*, *C. stephensonii*, and species of other genera as not susceptible; and *C. forbesii*, *C. nevadensis*, and the other hosts from other genera as slightly susceptible. Inoculation results did not provide a reliable indication of susceptibility in the field.

No effective control has been devised yet, as the pathogen penetrates deeply (10 mm.) into the wood. A Bordeaux spray (4–2–50) with a spreader adhesive was found effective in reducing the number of new infections in windbreaks of

C. macrocarpa and thereby served to prolong their life. Several *C. macrocarpa* trees showed some resistance to the disease and they may provide a future source of acceptable planting stock, either through vegetative propagation or breeding.

BERK (S.). **Inoculation experiments with *Polyporus schweinitzii*.**—*Phytopathology*, xxxviii, 5, pp. 370–377, 2 figs., 1948.

Polyporus schweinitzii [R.A.M., xxvi, pp. 273, 433] is considered primarily as a wood-destroying fungus that causes a root and butt rot of conifers and has been active in some forest plantings of white [*Pinus strobus*] and red pine [*P. rubra*] on the watershed of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, New York State, for at least 15 years. Since the disease is so widespread, a series of experiments were undertaken to determine whether the fungus can parasitize the roots of various seedling hardwoods and herbaceous plants.

The results showed *P. schweinitzii* to be incapable of parasitizing the roots of hardwood seedlings under the conditions of the test and capable of only weakly parasitizing the roots of lupin and bush beans [*Phaseolus vulgaris*] grown under aseptic conditions on inoculated ground pine-needle duff saturated with 2 per cent. malt. This medium gave apparently favourable environmental conditions for the fungus but not for the host. The possibility that the organism may remain viable in agricultural soils for some time after the land has been cleared, especially when the soil is rich in humus materials, cannot be precluded.

The fungus can survive and grow rapidly in certain types of sterilized soil but species of *Fusarium*, *Penicillium*, and other fungi isolated from the roots grew more rapidly than *P. schweinitzii* in culture and it is possible that inoculation of the last-named may be completely overgrown by the former species before infection can be effected.

BOUDRU (M.). **La maladie du Sapin de Douglas et d'autres conifères, causée par *Phomopsis pseudotsugae* Wilson.** [The disease of Douglas Fir and other conifers caused by *Phomopsis pseudotsugae* Wilson.]—*Bull. Soc. for. Belg.*, lv, 6, pp. 193–201, 1 pl. (facing p. 202), 1948.

In this paper (written in October, 1945) the author gives a semi-popular account, based largely on the literature of the subject, of the disease of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) and other conifers caused by *Phomopsis pseudotsugae* [R.A.M., xix, p. 178]. Up to the time of writing, the fungus had not been observed in Belgium either by workers at Gembloux or by those at Groenendael [ibid., xxvi, p. 367].

SCHEFFER (T. C.). **Chemical dipping treatments for controlling molding and staining of wood boxes and crates.**—*Spec. Release Div. For. Path., U.S. Dep. Agric.*, 28, 16 pp., 1 pl., 1946. [Mimeographed. Received June, 1948.]

The results are given of surface applications of 109 solutions of single and mixed chemicals made for both mould and blue stain control to panels of pine and sweet gum [*Liquidambar styraciflua*] sapwood afterwards held in damp storage for two months. The fungi used (in spore suspension) for the inoculations were species of *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Trichoderma*, *Mucor*, *Ceratostomella*, and *Diplodia*. Much natural inoculum was also present, and much staining was due to *Hormiscium gelatinosum* [R.A.M., xxi, p. 436], which was not applied artificially. The chemicals were applied in water and in organic solvents, chiefly solvent naphtha.

Leaching the treated wood for four hours in quiet tap water did not appreciably reduce control. Of the aqueous treatments, the most promising were: sodium pentachlorophenate 5 per cent.; sodium pentachlorophenate + borax, 2+2 per

cent.; sodium pentachlorophenate+borax+phenyl mercuric oleate (in emulsion), 1+1.5+0.1 per cent.; sodium pentachlorophenate+borax+ethyl mercuric phosphate, 1+1.5+0.032 per cent.; and, possibly, sodium pentachlorophenate+ethyl mercuric phosphate, 2+0.032 per cent. The mixtures would probably cause less dermatitis than the 5 per cent. sodium pentachlorophenate alone and would be much less expensive. Probably, also, they would be more effective where species or strains of fungi prevailed which were more than usually tolerant of the phenate alone. The evidence indicates that with mixtures of sodium pentachlorophenate and borax little is gained by using a borax concentration of over 1.5 per cent.

Aqueous treatments only slightly less effective were: sodium pentachlorophenate+borax, 1.5+1.5 per cent.; sodium pentachlorophenate+borax+ethyl mercuric phosphate, 1.5+1.5+0.008 and 1+1.5+0.016 per cent.; and, possibly, (alkyl quaternary) ammonium pentachlorophenate, 0.8 per cent. Aqueous materials that were less effective but likely to give reasonably good control under drier conditions were: sodium pentachlorophenate, 2 per cent.; and sodium pentachlorophenate+borax, 1+1.5 per cent.

The outstanding chemicals used in organic solvents were: pentachlorophenol, 5 per cent., and 8-hydroxyquinoline, 2 per cent. The latter is too expensive for general use but might be considered for treating fresh-food containers. Less effective but giving substantial control were: pentachlorophenol, 2 per cent.; copper naphthenate (2 per cent. copper); zinc naphthenate (2 per cent. zinc); and iron naphthenate (2 per cent. iron).

As none of the tests was maintained for more than two months, the results are tentatively regarded as applicable primarily to containers made of unseasoned wood, which will have an opportunity to dry out in a few months, or to those exposed to external wetting for short periods only.

ENGLERTH (G. H.). **Decay of Sitka Spruce in south-eastern Alaska.**—*J. For.*, xlv, 12, pp. 894-900, 2 figs., 1947.

The results are given of a study of decay and other defects in Sitka spruce [*Picea sitchensis*] carried out in south-eastern Alaska in the latter part of 1942 and in July and August, 1943 [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 531]. Additional data were obtained at mills in Alaska and the State of Washington, where Alaskan Sitka spruce was being sawn into lumber. Of a total of 595 trees studied on nine plots, 148 were infected. In addition, 35 decayed trees were examined on two further plots. Most of the decay was caused by 12 species of fungi, some of which caused a brown cubical or carbonizing rot, while the remainder produced a white or non-carbonizing rot. The fungi causing brown rots were the most important cause of cull. These were *Polyporus schweinitzii* [ibid., xxvi, pp. 223, 273], *P. sulphureus* [ibid., xxii, pp. 187, 231], *Fomes pinicola* [ibid., xxvii, p. 105], *F. officinalis* [ibid., xxiv, p. 472; xxv, p. 523; xxvi, p. 258], *Lentinus kauffmanii* [ibid., xxvi, p. 223], and *Trametes serialis* [ibid., xxv, p. 143]. Those causing the white rots were *F. pini* [ibid., xxvii, p. 207], *F. nigrolimitatus* [ibid., xxvi, p. 272], *F. applanatus* [*Ganoderma applanatum*: ibid., xxvi, pp. 429, 567], *P. borealis* [ibid., xxii, p. 187], *P. picipes* [ibid., xvi, p. 358], and *Poria subacida* [ibid., xxvi, pp. 272, 274].

A white rot caused by *Hydnum abietis* was found once, during a mill study, though it was not observed in spruce in the woods. Limited observations on western hemlock [*Tsuga heterophylla*] indicated that this fungus is one of the most important causes of decay in this species in south-eastern Alaska.

In Sitka spruce more rot was caused by *Polyporus schweinitzii* than by any other fungus, the figure being 75 out of a total of 213 infections. It occurred on all plots, and, in general, in trees over 300 years old, about one in six was infected by it. *P. borealis* caused 41 infections, or about 20 per cent. of the total. *F. pinicola* caused 28 infections, and *P. sulphureus* 23. *F. pini* occurred in 11 cases, *F.*

officinalis occurred in seven, and *L. karffmanii* in four. *F. nigrolimitatus*, though common on down Sitka spruce, was found only twice as a lower trunk rot of living spruce.

RAYNER (M[ABEL] C.). **Behaviour of Corsican Pine stock following different nursery treatments (*Pinus nigra* var. *calabrica* Schneid.).**—*Forestry*, xxi, 2, pp. 204–216, 1 pl., 1 fig., 10 graphs, 1947 (issued 1948).

A full account is given of a planting experiment carried out to compare the survival and growth behaviour of Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *calabrica* Schneid.) seedlings raised on poor, infertile heathland (treated with compost) in Wareham Forest, Dorset, with that of others raised by standard nursery methods in a nursery 20 miles away. The treatments were: B, two-year seedlings, which had been raised by sowing in a compost-treated seed-bed on poor *Calluna* heath in Wareham Forest, lined-out for one year in similar soil treated with compost; D, two-year seedlings raised in a Forestry Commission nursery and lined-out for one year in the same nursery; and C, two-year seedlings raised by sowing as in B, and lined out for one year as in D. All treatments were duplicated at planting (in 1940), one series, B 1, C 1, D 1 receiving 2 oz. per tree of phosphate fertilizer (basic slag) at planting, the other, B, C, D being without soil treatment. The unit for each treatment consisted of six rows each of about 33 plants, of which three rows were planted without and three with phosphate. The plot units were randomized and each treatment quadruplicated. In all, about 2,400 plants were used.

The results, assessed one, two, three, and six years from planting, showed that in survival and in shoot growth, general health, and vigour the plants raised on poor heath soil with compost and lined-out in the same soil with compost were greatly superior to the corresponding plants raised and lined-out in a standard nursery of the Forestry Commission. The death rate of the latter in 1942 was 158, compared with 24 in B and 18 in B 1, and was increased to 180 by supplying phosphate at planting. Those raised in heath soil with compost and lined-out in the standard nursery occupied a median position. Phosphate at planting benefited growth of the surviving plants in all series, but B plants were at least as good as the C 1 series. The root systems of the B plants were well provided with clusters of short mycorrhizal roots of the normal ectotrophic type formed by association with *Boletus bovinus* [R.A.M., xxiv, p. 463; xxvii, p. 211], and closely resembled those of naturally regenerating seedlings in a Corsican forest. This type of root system was noted in the field transplants two years after planting and was still present in root samples examined in 1947. It is believed to have played a decisive part in their observed growth reactions. The roots of the D plants, on the other hand, were non-mycorrhizal, a condition constantly recorded for Corsican and other species of pine and of spruce raised in the nursery in question. The non-mycorrhizal type of root system was feebly stimulated by phosphate treatment, but persisted in the D plants for two years after planting. Relative poverty in mycorrhizal equipment was still a feature of the D root systems at the time of writing. This difference in mycorrhizal behaviour is regarded as the most significant factor underlying the behaviour of the two sets of plants.

The C roots were intermediate in respect to mycorrhizal activity, but their response to phosphate at planting was markedly greater than in the D series, as expressed in improved shoot growth and mycorrhizal equipment.

This experiment shows that the constitutional vigour of Corsican pine seedlings raised in soil conditions that ensure a normal root system with adequate mycorrhizal equipment is carried into the forest, even when plantings are made in very poor soils of non-forest type. It follows that for this species (and, no doubt, others) the use of soil treatments to produce seedlings satisfying these requirements may be restricted to the nursery.

SĂVULESCU (ALICE). **Eine neue Krankheit auf *Carthamus tinctorius* L. (Saffor) hervorgerufen durch *Macrosporium carthami* Săvul.** [A new disease of *Carthamus tinctorius* L. (Safflower), caused by the fungus *Macrosporium carthami* Săvul.]—*Bull. Sect. sci. Acad. roum.*, xxvi, 10, pp. 1-20, 8 pl., 11 figs., 2 graphs, 1944.

This work has been already noticed from another source [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 472].

TIMS (E. C.). **White rot of Shallot.**—*Phytopathology*, xxxviii, 5, pp. 378-394, 4 figs., 1948.

Although white rot (*Sclerotium cepivorum*) [*R.A.M.*, xxiii, p. 512; xxvii, p. 7] of shallots, garlic, and onions in Louisiana is at present confined to a few small farms along the east bank of the Mississippi the disease constitutes a potential threat to these crops in the southern part of the State where they are grown in the cooler season of the year under conditions favouring its development.

The leaves of wilted shallot plants gradually turn yellow and collapse. The roots rot off at the crown, the basal portions of the scales soften and slough off, often forming a semi-watery decay similar to that caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and a whitish-grey mycelium develops on diseased parts below the soil line, soon accompanied by small black sclerotia. When infection occurs late in the season the bulbs formed invariably decay soon after harvest. In Louisiana shallots are grown from September to May and the infection period is generally from December to March. Under certain conditions, shallot plants may become infected and die within 20 days.

Several strains of the fungus, mostly varying little in growth characters or pathogenicity, were isolated from diseased onion, garlic, and shallot plants. Two strains obtained from shallot varied considerably, A producing numerous sclerotia on Czapek's agar with a minimum of mycelium and B developing a heavy mat of white mycelium with a few sclerotia and growing more quickly than A. After transfers at monthly intervals for three years B developed several sectors and neither the original isolate nor its sectors proved parasitic on shallot in inoculation experiments although A produced typical white rot symptoms.

Most white-rot-infested soils in Louisiana are slightly acid (pH 5 to 6.3) but the fungus grew well on Bacto bean agar and Czapek's solution over a wide pH range. On Richards's solution, however, growth occurred only between pH 2 and 7. The addition of hydrated lime at 1,000 lb. or 1,500 lb. per acre in 1943 increased the percentage of healthy bunches of shallots from 58 in the control to 68 and 74, respectively. In the following year the addition of 1,500 lb. lime per acre reduced white rot in the early stages but after the shallots matured sufficiently for the market the disease rapidly invaded the weakened plants. Semesan (1 oz. per gal.) and mercuric chloride (1 in 500) applied to the soil reduced the number of diseased bunches produced from 96 out of a total of 140 to 2 out of 138, and 0 out of 137, respectively. Various fungicidal dusts were ineffective. No appreciable resistance to white rot was observed in any variety now grown in the State.

The most promising means of controlling white rot of shallots in Louisiana appears to be early planting (August to September) to enable the crop to be harvested in October or November before disease develops.

CAPOOR (S. P.) & VARMA (P. M.). **Yellow mosaic of *Phaseolus lunatus* L.**—*Curr. Sci.*, xvii, 5, pp. 152-153, 1 fig., 1948.

In December 1939, at the Agricultural College Farm, Poona, India, numerous *Phaseolus lunatus* plants showed a leaf mosaic caused by a virus [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 431]. The same disease also occurred at several places in the province. The leaves develop scattered, slightly discoloured patches, which gradually turn bright

yellow. Occasionally a whole leaflet becomes chlorotic. The affected plants are not dwarfed and continue to grow normally, but the pod production is greatly reduced. Inoculated seedlings in an insect-proof glasshouse developed symptoms after 20 days. The virus is readily transmitted by bud-grafting, but not by sap or seed. *Bemisia tabaci* (*B. gossypiperda*) was the only insect which transmitted the disease (30 infections from 30 plants inoculated).

The virus also infects *P. limensis*, *P. vulgaris*, *P. aureus*, *Dolichos biflorus*, and *Canavalia ensiformis*. Of the *P. vulgaris* varieties tested Asgrow Stringless Greenpod and Davis White Wax were found to be resistant, Red Kidney highly susceptible.

The mosaic is considered to be caused by a new virus and the name 'double bean yellow mosaic' virus is suggested.

HEIBERG (BARBARA C.) & RAMSEY (G. B.). **Phoma rot of garden Beets.**—*Phytopathology*, xxxviii, 5, pp. 343-347, 1 fig., 1 graph, 1948.

For several years a black rot of topped garden beets [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 90] in storage has caused heavy losses among rail and truck shipments on the Chicago market. The disease usually appears at the root tips but occasionally occurs at the crown and in wounds on the side of the root. The affected tissues blacken or develop a flat, greyish-white surface mycelium while internally the dark brown, water-soaked tissues, sharply divided from the healthy tissues, become black and granular and eventually dry and spongy. No pycnidia were observed but isolations made from the advancing edge of black rot lesions consistently yielded a species of *Phoma* and comparison with authentic cultures of *P. betae* [*ibid.*, xxvii, pp. 3, 4] indicated that the same species was involved. On potato dextrose agar (pH 7) the garden beet organism produced abundant pycnidia ranging from 210 to 560 μ in diameter and conidia measuring 4.3 to 8.1 by 2.9 to 5.8 μ , average 5.7 by 3.5 μ . Cultures on potato dextrose agar (pH 7) grew through a temperature range of 35° to 95° F., the optimum being 75°. Wound inoculations in whole and sliced garden beets produced greater decay during storage in older beets than in young beets. Beets inoculated by the scalpel method and stored in moist sand for 6 weeks developed lesions averaging 5 mm. in diameter at 45°, 12 mm. at 55°, and 6 mm. at 65°. Different amounts of decay produced in sliced storage beet inoculated with 5 different cultures of *P. betae* from garden beets and 3 from sugar beets indicate that there may be some difference in pathogenicity between strains of the organism. In inoculation studies using seedlings grown in the greenhouse from seed of the Detroit Dark Red variety, tan leaf spots, 2 to 3 mm. in diameter, with red borders were produced on the older leaves of two-month old seedlings in covered pots two days after they had been atomized with a water suspension of spores of a garden beet isolate of *P. betae*. The fungus was re-isolated from these spots. In germination tests using three lots of commercial garden beet seed of the Detroit Dark Red variety, 20 to over 50 per cent. of the seedlings were killed, and, upon examination, were found to bear abundant pycnidia of *P. betae* which proved pathogenic to beets in inoculation tests.

YU (T. F.) & FANG (C. T.). **Fusarium diseases of Broad Bean. II. Further studies on Broad Bean wilt caused by *Fusarium avenaceum* var. *fabae*.**—*Phytopathology*, xxxviii, 5, p. 331-342, 1 fig., 2 graphs, 1948.

In this paper the results of further studies at the National Tsing Hua University, China, on the broad bean wilt caused by a typical wilt producing strain, isolated No. 607-R-1 of *Fusarium avenaceum* var. *fabae* [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxiii, p. 422], are reported. The optimum temperature for mycelial growth on potato dextrose agar was 24° to 26° C., the minimum 5° to 6°, and the maximum below 33°. The fungus grew well on acid media ranging from pH 4.5 to 8.9, optimum growth being obtained

between pH 5.8 and 6.7. The organism also tended to increase the acidity of the medium on which it grew. Spores germinated most rapidly at temperatures near the optimum for growth of the mycelium, while abundant sporulation was observed from 10° to 28° with the optimum about 20°. The percentage of wilted plants was much higher in dry and medium-moist soils than in wet and saturated soils. Medium-moist soil favoured early development of the symptoms and dry soil caused rapid death of affected plants. Although no experiments to determine the effect of soil temperature on the development of wilt have yet been made, field surveys indicate that it is an important factor in limiting distribution and severity. The disease occurs throughout the bean-growing areas but it was far more prevalent and destructive in the northern part of Yunnan province than in the southern part where soil temperatures were high. It also appeared from the surveys that poor soils were more favourable to the development of the disease than fertile soils. Replicated, randomized plots composed of very poor soil were therefore used to determine the effect of fertilizer in the form of ammonium sulphate, applied at various rates, on the development of wilt. The incidence of wilt was lowest in the plots receiving the largest quantity of fertilizer, only 29 per cent. wilt occurring on plots receiving 120 lb. ammonium sulphate per Chinese mow ($\frac{1}{3}$ acre) as against 62 per cent. on plots receiving 40 lb. Soil reaction tests were made in which bean plants were grown in infested soils varying from pH 5.02 to 8.87. Wilt occurred over the whole range, the highest percentage (57.2) occurring from pH 6.25 to 6.67.

Inoculation experiments showed that peas and common vetches may also be attacked. Isolations made from the rootlets, main roots, and hypocotyls of broad bean seedlings all yielded cultures of the pathogen although rootlet infection is the most important in the field. The fungus invades chiefly the xylem of the root and stem, frequently leaving granular, gum-like deposits, and spreads to the cambium and phloem tissues sparingly, invading the cortex only in the later stages of the disease. It remained viable for at least three years buried beneath the soil surface on diseased bean roots, and was shown to overwinter readily on old stubble and plant debris. Although there was no evidence of the fungus being present inside the seed, it was found on the seed coat, possibly through contamination at threshing time. Since the bean crop is rotated annually with rice and the fields ploughed and flooded between each crop, experiments were made to determine the longevity of the fungus in submerged soil. The organism was found to remain viable for at least 12 months so that water from infested rice fields may serve as an important means of spreading the disease.

GOIDÀNICH (G.) & CAMICI (LEONTINA). **Diffusione e dannosità della *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tass) G. Goid. esistente quale polifago parassita in Italia.** [The prevalence and injuriousness of *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tassi) G. Goid. existing as a polyphagous parasite in Italy.]—*Ann. Sper. agr.*, N.S., i, 3, pp. 485–520, 16 figs., 1947. [English summary.]

In this study on *Macrophomina phaseolina* [*M. phaseoli*: *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 435; xxvii, p. 387] the authors, after a critical review of the literature of the subject, describe the morphological and cultural characters of strains of the fungus isolated from beans [*Phaseolus vulgaris*] and lavender in three widely separated parts of Italy, and the symptoms as seen in the field.

The affected cortex and woody tissues contained numerous microsclerotia with attached dark, thick hyphae which became hyaline as they lengthened out and penetrated all the surrounding cells. Very occasionally, and only in the outer layers under the epidermis of the stem, pycnidia developed, mixed with the mass of microsclerotia; they were semi-erumpent, round, and markedly larger.

All the strains showed closely similar cultural and morphological characters. The sclerotia arise by cellular proliferation at any point in the hyphae after these have

darkened. At maturity they are typically spherical and smooth, though they may become gibbose as a result of the swelling of the peripheral cells. They appear hairy owing to the dark hyphae emerging from them. Though typically spherical, they may be oblong, discoid, or nearly pyriform; on rich media they become confluent, larger than normal, and very irregular in outline. Such bodies were not observed on the host. The hyphae of the microsclerotia are 7 to 8μ wide. The sclerotia of the strain obtained from beans in Liguria were 65 to 75μ on the host and 100 to 115μ in cultures eight to ten days old; and from broad beans [*Vicia faba*] in Sardinia 115 to 135μ in diameter in culture. All the strains would appear to fall into Haigh's C group [ibid., ix, p. 685]. Inoculation experiments on various hosts showed that the optimum temperature for the development of infection was about 31°C .

The paper concludes with a review of the distribution of the fungus in Italy, the damage caused by it, and possible control measures. Control is complicated by the fact that penetration can take place through undamaged tissues or through broken tissues in the roots and by the fact that the presence of microsclerotia in the soil constitute a continuous menace. Only indirect measures would appear to be possible at present, i.e., using disinfected seed or propagating material from localities where the disease is not yet present, preventing all forms of root injury, and using improved cultural methods.

CASTELLANI (E.). **Su un marciume radicale della Scarola.** [On a root rot of Endive].—*Agricoltura tosc.*, iii, 7, pp. 222–223, 1 fig., 1948.

In October, 1947, endives (*Cichorium endivia* [var.] *latifolium*) growing near Florence were observed to show a sickly condition. The heart leaves were small, closely packed together, and a dull, greyish green, while the outermost leaves were small, yellow, and withered. The yellowing and withering gradually spread from the outer to the inner leaves, but did not affect the heart. The affected plants remained stunted and were quite unsuitable for export. The roots were found to be in a very unhealthy condition. Many of the secondary roots had rotted and the tap-roots showed a brown discoloration of the internal cortex and the outside of the central cylinder, due to the presence of *Thielaviopsis basicola*, not, apparently, reported on *Cichorium* before. Experimental inoculations showed the fungus to be strongly pathogenic to endive. Further investigations are in progress; meantime, sterilization of the soil by heat or growing in sand with nutritive solutions is recommended.

ATKINS (F. C.). **Disease caused by *Dactylium* spp.**—*Bull. Mushroom Gr. Ass.* 12, p. 119, 3 figs. (on p. 118), 1948.

Brief notes are given on the disease of cultivated mushrooms [*Psalliota* spp.] known as 'cobweb', 'mildew', or 'soft decay', and caused by species of *Dactylium* including *D. dendroides* [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 437].

Soós (I.). **A szőlőn előforduló penészgombák hatása a szőlő és a must összetételére.** [The effect of moulds on the composition of Grapes and must.]—*Kisér. Közl.*, xlvii–xlix, pp. 33–40, 1947. [English and Russian summaries.]

The influence of the moulds *Botrytis cinerea*, *Penicillium glaucum*, *Mucor* sp., and *Aspergillus niger* on media containing dextrose, fructose, tartaric, and malic acids was investigated at the Ampelological Institute, Budapest. *B. cinerea* and *P. glaucum* consumed large amounts of tartaric and afterwards of malic acid. On the other hand, if sugar was the sole source of carbon the acid content was increased through the formation of new acid out of sugar. *M. sp.* utilized tartaric acid to a slight extent in the presence of sugar only. *A. niger* caused a decrease in acidity only in sugar-free solutions. All four moulds produced acids from sugar. On a

medium containing 9.8 per cent. dextrose, for instance, *B. cinerea* produced 0.27 per cent. oxalic acid, *A. niger* 1.96 per cent. oxalic and 1.74 per cent. citric acid, and *P. glaucum* 1.47 per cent. citric acid. The same species and the *Mucor* evolved little formic acid in this sugar solution. Similar results were obtained, but less rapidly, in a medium containing 9.8 per cent. fructose. The addition to the substratum of 0.6 per cent. tartaric acid stimulated *A. niger* to the copious production of oxalic and citric acids, but again only scanty amounts of formic acid developed.

BAILLOT D'ESTIVAUX (L.). **Le cuprosulfite de cuivre anticryptogamique permanent pour la Vigne.** [Copper cuprosulphite, a permanent fungicide for Vines.]—*C. R. Acad. Agric. Fr.*, xxxiv, 1, pp. 37–40, 1948.

The author has evolved a new fungicide for use on vines, bivalent cuprosulphite of copper $[\text{Cu}(\text{SO}_3)_2]_2\text{Cu} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ or its hydrates. This material gives off soluble copper continuously, as well as reducing agents resembling those emitted by sulphur. Its main advantages are (1) it contains 49 per cent. metallic copper, (2) it is stable and insoluble in water, (3) it contains 41 per cent. SO_2 as stable sulphites, (4) it is simple to prepare and costs less than copper sulphate for the same copper content, and (5) its efficaciousness is such that it permits a great economy in the metal. Used as a fine dust, mixed with a small amount of inert material such as talc, it exercises a very strong action against *Oidium* [*Uncinula necator*] and mildew [*Plasmopara viticola*]. It can also be used as a colloidal suspension or a mixture.

Observations over a period of four years showed the presence of appreciable amounts of soluble copper on leaves treated several months before on which no visible trace of the application remained. On the other hand, 2 per cent. Bordeaux mixture, containing four times as much copper as cuprosulphite, after the same lapse of time left only insoluble copper on the leaves. Comparing the two treatments and making due allowance for the initial difference in copper content, cuprosulphite gives 165 times more soluble copper than Bordeaux mixture while leaving an ample reserve of copper on the leaf to become soluble later.

The fungicidal effects have not yet been fully tested, but in 1946, in one vineyard, the only rows unaffected by *P. viticola* on 16th September were those treated on 29th August with cuprosulphite. No burning resulted from the application.

SILBERSCHMIDT (K. M.). **Infectious chlorosis of *Phenax sonneratii*.**—*Phytopathology*, xxxviii, 5, pp. 395–398, 1948.

During a survey of species of Malvaceae for infectious chlorosis in 1946 and 1947, specimens of the weed *Phenax sonneratii* (Urticaceae), collected at São Vicente and Santos, São Paulo, were observed to bear symptoms of infectious chlorosis [*Abutilon* variegation virus: *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 546], the leaves of affected plants displaying pronounced vein-clearing and chlorotic spotting of the secondary veins. The disease was transmitted by grafting diseased scions on healthy stocks of *P. sonneratii* but not by sap inoculation.

The authors suggest that this virus disease, new to the Urticaceae, should be included in the group of infectious chloroses.

CONNERS (I. L.) & SAVILE (D. B. O.). **Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Canadian Plant Disease Survey, 1947.**—xiii+118 pp., 1948. [Mimeographed.]

In the section of this report dealing with new or noteworthy diseases [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 7] it is stated that stem [black] rust (*Puccinia graminis*) [ibid., xxvi, p. 385] was unusually heavy on susceptible wheat varieties in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, though the resistant varieties now commonly grown were unaffected or showed only a trace of infection. Durum wheat was lightly infected, barley more heavily than usual, and oats showed rather severe attack. In other parts of Canada black rust was of minor importance except for a few local epidemics.

Wheat leaf [brown] rust (*P. triticea*) [ibid., xxvi, pp. 8, 49] was severe except in Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan. The Regent, Redman, and Renown varieties, resistant when first developed, were almost as heavily rusted in central Canada as the susceptible varieties Thatcher, Apex, and Saunders.

T. Johnson and B. Peturson report on the incidence of physiologic races of cereal rusts in Canada in 1947. *Puccinia graminis tritici* race 56 was most prevalent, being isolated 98 times, followed by 38 (8), 15 (4), 29 and 32 (3 each), 17 (2), and races 10, 23, 39, 74, and 87 (1 each). *P. triticea* comprised 17 races, the most prevalent being 5a (34), 15a (33), 126a (28), and 58 (24), the decrease in prevalence of race 128a (128 in the 1946 summer) being a noteworthy feature.

Helminthosporium victoriae [ibid., xxvii, pp. 16, 313] was first recorded on oats in Canada at Ottawa in June, 1947. It was later found in every province except Alberta. The two new Canadian oats, Beacon and Garry, are susceptible, as are several American varieties which derive their resistance to *P. coronata* from their Victoria parent.

Examination of farmers' seed samples for smut [ibid., xxvi, p. 389] in western Canada showed that over 70 per cent. of the wheat, nearly 90 per cent. of the oats, and more than 95 per cent. of the barley samples for sowing in 1947 carried some smut. The introduction of the Cornell 595 wheat variety, which is resistant to loose smut [*Ustilago tritici*], should reduce losses from this disease in winter wheat in south-western Ontario, where Dawson's Golden Chaff showed an average infection of 11 per cent.

Lucerne bacterial wilt (*Corynebacterium insidiosum*) [ibid., xxvii, p. 121] has now spread to the Peace River District of Alberta and the Melfort section of Saskatchewan. It was also reported from British Columbia and Manitoba. Lucerne rust (*Uromyces medicaginis*) [ibid., xii, p. 177] is of minor importance in Canada, but its aecidial stage, not previously recorded in North America, was found on *Euphorbia cyparissias* near Annprior, Ontario.

Flax suffered heavy losses from die-back and scorch caused by heat and drought in the dry central and western parts of Saskatchewan. Seedling blight due to *Rhizoctonia* [*Corticium*] *solani* and other fungi [ibid., xxiv, p. 4] caused exceptionally severe losses in Manitoba and a slight thinning of stands in Saskatchewan. Pasm disease (*Septoria linicola*) [ibid., xxv, p. 61] was widespread and severe in Manitoba, while in south-eastern Saskatchewan it was more prevalent than in 1946, but caused little damage.

Bacterial ring rot (*Corynebacterium sepe-donicum*) [ibid., xxvii, p. 537] was the third most important cause of the rejection of seed potato fields entered for certification, and was the main cause in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. All potatoes were remarkably free from the disease in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia [ibid., xxvii, p. 354].

Bean [*Phaseolus vulgaris*] rust (*Uromyces appendiculatus*) [ibid., xxvi, p. 187; xxvii, p. 56], usually of minor importance, was widespread in south-western Ontario, where it caused severe damage in some fields.

In a commercial field in York County, New Brunswick, 22 per cent. of the carrot plants showed the presence of a virus disease, referred to as 'dwarf'. The petioles or petiolules were frequently twisted and bent, with the lower surface of the leaf or leaflets uppermost. The lower and middle leaves displayed an irregular chlorotic mottling later superseded by a marginal chlorosis and finally by marginal reddening. Affected leaves died prematurely. The petioles were usually brittle and often showed necrotic streaking. The roots were small, with nodular growths. The condition resembled yellows (*Callistephus* virus 1) [aster yellows virus: ibid., xxv, p. 61], with which it was frequently associated. Plants attacked by both viruses together were severely stunted and distorted. Dwarf was transmitted to healthy carrots by an unidentified species of aphid found on infected carrots in the field.

Chives from British Columbia were affected by *Puccinia porri* [ibid., xvii, p. 703; xxiv, p. 388]. Onion smut (*Urocystis cepulae*) [ibid., xxvi, p. 404] was recorded, for the first time, in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. Onion yellow dwarf [ibid., xxvii, p. 57] appears to be well established in the Grand Forks and Vernon districts of British Columbia, 10 per cent. of the plants in seed crops and 1 per cent. of those in bulb crops being affected in the latter area.

The presence of pear stony pit in Ontario [ibid., xxvi, pp. 9, 399] was confirmed. Little cherry [ibid., xxvii, p. 28] is now present in all important fruit-growing parts of the Kootenays but it has not been observed in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. The disease is particularly amenable to detection by Linder's method [ibid., p. 354]. Blueberry stunt [ibid., xxvi, p. 113] and canker (*Godronia cassandrae*) [ibid., xxiv, p. 5] were recorded in western Nova Scotia for the first time.

Alnus mollis var. *crispa* near Percé, Quebec, showed leaf spot due to *Passalora bacilligera* [cf. ibid., iii, p. 102], the first record of this disease from Canada. Birch die-back [ibid., xxvii, p. 50] continued to cause heavy losses in the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces. Dutch elm disease (*Ceratostomella ulmi*) has spread westward in Quebec [ibid., xxvii, p. 256], north of the Ottawa River to within three miles of the Ontario boundary.

Haplobasidium pavoninum, previously recorded from California and Europe [ibid., xviii, pp. 401, 724], was observed on *Aquilegia*. *Chrysanthemum* stunt (the cause of which has not yet been ascertained but is possibly a virus), which apparently originated in a commercial greenhouse in New York, has become established in several greenhouses in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Leaf rot (*Heteropatella vattellinensis*) [ibid., xix, p. 349], previously recorded only from Europe, was found on carnations from New Westminster, British Columbia, and Seattle, Washington. *Peronospora gei* [ibid., xxv, p. 579] severely injured a seed crop of *Geum chilense* at Keating, British Columbia. Peony blight (*Phytophthora paeoniae*) [*P. cactorum*: ibid., xxii, p. 170] was noted at Morin Heights, Quebec, though it may have been confused previously with *Botrytis* [*paeoniae*: loc. cit.]. Pansies in British Columbia were attacked by *Myrothecium roridum* [ibid., xxvii, pp. 10, 309], another new record for Canada.

BERTUS (L. S.). **Plant pathology.**—*Adm. Rep. Dir. Agric., Ceylon, 1946*, pp. D8–D11, 1948.

The following diseases were observed for the first time in Ceylon in 1946 [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 530]: blister blight (*Exobasidium vexans*) [ibid., xxvi, p. 358; xxvii, pp. 198, 199] of tea, leaf blight of carrots (*Macrosporium carotae*) [*Alternaria dauci*: ibid., xxvi, p. 405], ear head disease of *Pennisetum typhoides* (*Acrothecium pennisetii*, smut (*Ustilago crameri*) [ibid., xxiv, p. 187] on *Setaria italica*, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on sorghum, and *Fomes lucidus* [*Ganoderma lucidum*] on *Tamarindus indica*.

Numerous cacao trees on one estate in the Kandy district suffered from a relatively sudden incidence of die-back (apparently of a physiological nature), which in extreme cases had resulted in death. The condition appeared to be more serious on exposed slopes with a westerly outlook than in sheltered, shady hollows. A similar outbreak of die-back was reported from the same estate in 1933. In badly affected areas cacao trees should be planted in relatively dense shade.

An inspection of diseased *Casuarina* [*equisetifolia*] trees at Pallai revealed trees in all the coupes to be affected, but those of 1935 and 1939 suffered most. The casualties were heavier in the presence of undergrowth. Evidence indicated that the death of the trees, beginning with a die-back, was primarily due to the insufficient water-holding capacity of the soil, probably resulting in the death of numerous feeding roots during the dry period. *Trichosporium vesiculosum* [ibid., xx, p. 290], which was isolated from the majority of the older dead and dying trees,

appears to be only a secondary agent, which hastens the killing of the trees. It is also probable that during wet weather the soil is water-logged, and the alternate water starvation and water-logging are very favourable to the decline of *C. equisetifolia*. In order to help the soil to retain moisture, green or cattle manure should be added. All dead or dying trees should be eliminated.

Bud rot (*Phytophthora palmivora*) [loc. cit.] killed several coco-nut palms in the Negombo district. The unfolded leaflets yielded the causal fungus.

The die-back of mandarin, orange, and grape fruit trees at Nalanda, Wellassa, and Pelwebera fruit stations, occurring in only one or two branches of each tree, was caused by pink disease (*Corticium salmonicolor*) [ibid., xxvi, p. 531]. The fungus formed minute, pink pustules in small cracks in the bark. Around Bibile about 30 per cent. of the citrus trees were affected.

The plantain [banana] bunchy top eradication campaign [loc. cit.] has been continued and 276,512 diseased plants were uprooted and destroyed. The scheme was expanded to more districts. In the four Korales in the Kegalle district 181,964 diseased plants were destroyed, and in the three divisions of the Kandy district 17,418. After eradication of affected trees in January and July no further bunchy top infections were found up to December at the Giritale State farm, which serves as a nursery for supplying disease-free suckers.

Affected flowers of *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium* at Mahakudugala showed a discoloration of the receptacle. Isolations yielded a species of *Coniothyrium*. Inoculations of buds, flowers, and flower stalks, however, gave negative results.

The regulations relating to the control of banana bunchy top were published in the *Ceylon Government Gazette* No. 9,526, 1946, and the same number contains the regulations for preventing the introduction into Ceylon of a virus disease of sweet potato from Africa [ibid., xxvii, pp. 352, 353].

McDONALD (J.). Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, Cyprus, for the year 1947.—11 pp., 1948.

In Appendix IV (4 pp.) to this report [mimeographed and loosely inserted], L. J. S. LITTLEJOHN, dealing with the plant disease situation in Cyprus in 1947 [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 25] states that lime-sulphur spraying against tomato mildew (*Oidiopsis taurica*) [ibid., xxvi, p. 174] was carried out in many districts. Broad beans suffered much damage from a disease of unknown origin, which occurs sporadically every year. The leaves turn yellow when the first flowers open; a general collapse of the green parts and the death of the plant follow. These symptoms result from a complete, sudden decay of the whole fine root and nodular system. No specific micro-organism appears to be involved, and no evidence has been found of mineral deficiency or genetic disorder, neither could the condition be transmitted experimentally from affected to healthy plants. Ornamental and fodder lupins when grown in Cyprus invariably succumb to a very similar trouble.

A series of wheat selections from crosses and from imported varieties was grown to test their reaction to *Puccinia graminis*. A moderate attack occurred, and selections with reasonable cropping capacity and a moderate degree of apparent resistance were chosen for further work.

DE ROPP (R. S.). Action of streptomycin on plant tumours.—*Nature, Lond.*, clxii, 4116, pp. 459-460, 1 fig., 1948.

To investigate further the effect of streptomycin on plant tumours produced by *Phytomonas* [*Bacterium*] *tumefaciens* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 276] the author treated the upper surfaces of cylinders of sterile carrot tissue 10 mm. by 6 mm. high on sucrose mineral agar, with a suspension containing about 15×10^8 viable organisms for each cylinder. After one, two, six, and eight days, the carrot fragments were

transferred to sucrose mineral agar containing 50 γ per ml. streptomycin and their upper surfaces covered with 0.06 ml. of a 500 γ per ml. solution of streptomycin.

After three weeks' incubation in light at 25° C., it was found that where streptomycin had been applied one or two days after inoculation tumour formation was almost completely inhibited, and the tumours that did develop were very small. Six days after inoculation tumefaction had already begun, and application of streptomycin at this time slightly reduced the growth of tumours and changed their appearance, the untreated tumours being green and the treated ones white.

When bacteria-free sunflower tumour tissue was cultured on sucrose agar containing 50 γ per ml. streptomycin, growth was only 65 per cent. of that on streptomycin-free agar. The application of 50 γ per ml. of streptomycin completely inhibited root growth on sunflower stem fragments treated with indoleacetic acid, though it did not inhibit their initiation.

It is concluded that streptomycin is more probably a general inhibitor of the growth of embryonic plant tissue than a specific inhibitor of tumour tissue. Its inhibiting effect on tumour formation probably results from its action on the bacterial inciting agent.

ALIBERT (H.) & MEIFFREN (M.). **La maladie à virus des Cacaoyers, 'swollen shoot'.** [The virus disease of Cacao, swollen shoot].—*Rev. Mycologie, Suppl. colon.*, xii, 3, pp. 64–70, 1947. [Received March, 1948.]

Losses in cacao produced during 1947 due to the cacao swollen shoot virus [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, 515] were very great in the Gold Coast, whilst the damage in the Ivory Coast [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 97] was of less importance.

The results of transmission experiments carried out at Abengourou, Ivory Coast, showed that *Pseudococcus njalensis* and *P. citri* [*loc. cit.*] produced the first symptoms of the Kongodia form [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 549] in 40 to 59 and 60 to 63 days, respectively, while *P. njalensis* produced the Sankadiokro form in 28 to 31 days. *Theobroma bicolor* and *Cola chlamidantha* act as reservoirs for the virus.

The control programme aims at destroying infected trees and the selecting of resistant clones.

ROSELLA (E.). **Les piétins des céréales au Maroc. Les organismes que l'on rencontre le plus fréquemment. Les conditions qui facilitent ou qui provoquent l'attaque.** [Cereal foot rots in Morocco. The organisms most often found. The conditions which favour or induce attack].—*C. R. Acad. Agric. Fr.*, xxxiv, 10, pp. 681–683, 1948.

In Morocco, *Helminthosporium gramineum* [*cf. R.A.M.*, ix, p. 30; xvi, p. 244], while only exceptionally causing foot-rot of barley is able to cause damping-off. *Cercospora herpotrichoides* [*cf. ibid.*, xv, p. 207] plays a much less important part in cereal foot rot in Morocco than it does in France, but *Ophiobolus graminis* and *H. sativum* are common, the latter being apparently of primary importance and the more dangerous pathogen [*ibid.*, ix, p. 29]. *Wojnowicia graminis* [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 388] is commonly found and a species of *Sclerotium*, associated with *O. graminis* and *H. sativum*. That *O. graminis* should be found frequently in Morocco is not surprising. In France it is most harmful in the south-west. Its pathogenicity appears to be favoured by alternate wet and dry periods, the latter, seemingly, predisposing the plants to infection. *H. sativum* was isolated on numerous occasions from plants with whiteheads and from atrophied plants, in which it had invaded the roots and the base of the collar; isolated from such plants the fungus was able to infect cereals, particularly barley varieties, on which it produced generalized infection in under 48 hours. On fully developed plants the author observed only leaf-burn, but his observations indicated that *H. sativum* can cause damping-off of barley seedlings and impede or arrest, to some extent, the development of cereals

before harvest. It is carried over from one year to the next on 'ropy' or spotted wheat and barley seed. Seed treatment with quinoline sulphate has given good results against *C. herpotrichoides*.

Both in France and Morocco damping-off, followed by whiteheads and lodging, due to *C. herpotrichoides* are most severe in cereals sown too thickly and too deeply. Sowings made too deep may be responsible for some cases of damping-off, but nutrition appears to determine the seriousness of foot rot and whiteheads. The organisms responsible (*O. graminis* and *H. sativum*) are often found on plants which appear to be threatened by non-parasitic whiteheads. Penetration of the root systems and the sheaths of barley and wheat by foot-rotting organisms and weak pathogens appears to be facilitated by inadequate nutrition and, even more, by periods of drought. In Morocco, foot-rot patches are often found in places where cereals make poor growth, and where the soil is poor and shallow. Affected plants often present a very similar appearance whether fungal infection is heavy, moderate, or none. In many cases, the fungi appear to have been only of transitory importance. Whiteheads is the symptom most commonly found. Control depends on improved cultural conditions and, in many cases, on the use of fertilizers

BRENTZEL (W. E.). **Studies on ergot of grains and grasses.**—*Bull. N. Dak. agric. Exp. Sta.* 348, 20 pp., 5 fig., 1947.

The main object of this research was to find a means of controlling ergot of grains and grasses (*Claviceps purpurea*) [*R.A.M.*, xxiv, p. 230; xxvi, p. 493; xxvii, p. 314] in North Dakota either by cultural methods or by chemical seed treatment. Considerable preliminary work led to the development of a technique by means of which ergot was produced in the greenhouse under controlled environment.

Samples of ergot from durum wheat, barley, rye, and *Agropyron repens* [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 52] in pots of sandy soil covered with pure white sand were watered, alternately frozen and thawed for 24 hours at approximately two-weekly intervals from December to the end of February, after which they were kept at 0° to 5° F. until 1st June, and finally at 60° F. Three weeks later the sclerotia began to bear stromata prolifically. It was concluded that a rather cool temperature and high atmospheric humidity were necessary for germination. Further samples similarly treated germinated continuously from August to October. Water-logging did not check germination nor did a depth of soil up to 1 in., but temperatures over 50° during the thawing period were unsatisfactory. The longevity of sclerotia appears to be at least 38 months.

The usual seed treatments were unsuccessful in destroying ergots, but complete inhibition of 200 barley ergot sclerotia was obtained following treatment with formaldehyde or ceresan; 22 per cent. of the non-treated sclerotia germinated.

Honeydew droplets developed on plants in the greenhouse 7 to 10 days after being sprayed while in bloom with a suspension of *Sphacelia* spores. Such spores from barley infected a number of hosts, including barley, rye, *A. repens*, *A. smithii*, *A. cristatum*, and *Bromus inermis*. Similar inoculations produced honeydew infection on *B. inermis* and *A. repens* in the field in 10 days. Honeydew from barley sprayed on to barley and oat flowers infected five barley heads out of 15 but not oats; *Sphacelia* spores from *Poa* sp. infected *Elymus virginicus* and *E. canadensis* but not oats, which appear to be mainly resistant in North Dakota. *Sphacelia* spores from barley and *B. inermis* remained viable for 9 and 22 months respectively when stored in vitro at 44°. Stromata were still viable after being stored for 42 days. An ergot epidemic was induced at flowering by spraying experimental rye plots with a suspension from cultures grown in bottles on cooked grain to produce large numbers of spores. Seven days later honeydew was observed followed by ergot development. Data obtained from 200 heads taken from each plot showed that the single

inoculation produced an average of 0.66 sclerotia per head compared with 0.34 in non-sprayed plots which were probably due to natural infection. The average weight of seeds from ergotized and non-ergotized heads was 17 and 18 mg., respectively.

Methods of controlling ergot by sanitation include removing sclerotia from the seed and ensuring that none is left in the soil from the previous crop. Grasses along roadsides on waste land or hay land should be mowed soon after blooming, before ergot develops, and the soil kept in a clean condition by cultivation and rotation. Ergot may be removed from small seed lots by adding 20 per cent. common salt to water (40 lb. to 25 gals.) so that the ergots rise to the surface. The seed should be washed before sowing to remove the salt.

BUTLER (F. C.). **Take-all of Wheat.**—*Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.*, lix, 5, pp. 248–250, 3 figs., 1948.

Take-all (*Ophiobolus graminis*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 180, 221, and next abstract], causes yield reductions up to 50 per cent. in individual crops in Australia. It occurs on a number of native grasses including *Bromus sterilis*, *Vulpia bromoides*, *V. myuros*, *Agrostis* spp., *Phalaris canariensis*, and *Hordeum leporinum*. Control measures include, in addition to those already noticed [loc. cit.], early and bare fallowing, late fallowing and fallow under grasses being worse than none. Ploughing through diseased patches, when the soil is very dry, should be avoided, as it assists the spread of the fungus. Cereal varieties should be sown at the correct time, according to their seasonal characteristics. Feeding-off should be avoided and burning-off is not recommended unless take-all infection is extensive.

[SCOTT (R. C.).] **'Take-all' and 'hay-die' in cereal crops.**—*J. Dep. Agric. S. Aust.*, li, 11, p. 531, 1948.

It is stated that both hay-die and take-all of cereals are caused by the same fungus [*Ophiobolus graminis*: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 418 and preceding abstract]. Where the crop is destroyed in the early stages the disease is known as 'take-all', but where it is less serious and plants are not attacked until fully grown it is known as 'hay-die'. The disease organism multiplies most rapidly with a combination of a host plant and moist autumn, and remains viable in the soil for two years without a host plant. The fungus was found, in experiments in South Australia, to kill 83, 49, 21, and 3 per cent. of affected wheat, barley, rye, and oats, respectively.

SCOTT (R. C.). **New Wheat varieties and disease resistance.**—*J. Dep. Agric. S. Aust.*, li, 11, pp. 527–531, 1948.

Owing to the occurrence of wheat red [brown] rust [*Puccinia triticea*: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 69, 221] in southern Australia during the past two years, plant-breeders throughout the Commonwealth are paying particular attention to the development of rust-resistant varieties. The varieties developed in recent years and adapted to South Australian conditions include Warigo, a high-yielding, highly rust-resistant variety from a cross between Hope and Nabawa from which it inherits resistance to flag smut [*Urocystis tritici*] and loose smut [*Ustilago tritici*]; Glen Wari (N. R. H.) from a cross between Nabawa, Riverina, and Hope, which promises to be very useful in the medium rainfall districts of the State, and the rust-resistant Frisco from Kenya × Florence × Dundee × Gular, which shows promise in New South Wales. Other promising varieties include Koorda, from a cross between Nizam and Nabawa with resistance to flag smut, and Scimitar which is fairly resistant to brown rust and yields well in normal seasons. It is built up from a Nabawa × Egyptian 4 cross.

PRASADA (R.). **Darluca filum (Biv.) Cast., a hyper-parasite of Puccinia graminis and Puccinia triticina in the greenhouse.**—*Curr. Sci.*, xvii, 7, pp. 215–216, 1948.

During greenhouse investigations of wheat rusts at Simla, India, the author observed the parasitism of uredinia of *Puccinia graminis* and *P. triticina* by *Darluca filum* [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 265] each year in July, August, and September. The hyper-parasite disappeared after the rainy season or when the plants were removed to a dry place. The results of inoculation experiments also indicated that *D. filum* can develop only under very humid conditions, and the author therefore considers that it would be useless for the control of cereal rusts in nature.

GRASSO (V.). **Le specie di Tilletia del Frumento esistenti in Italia e loro distribuzione geografica.** [The species of *Tilletia* present on Wheat in Italy and their geographical distribution.]—Reprinted from *Ann. Sper. agr.*, N.S., ii, 23 pp., 6 figs., 1 graph, 2 maps, 1948.

This is an expanded account of work already noticed from another source [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 415].

Informaciones de interés para los trabajos de selección de plantas resistentes a la carie. [Notes of interest for the work of selection of bunt-resistant plants.]—*Hoja inform. Minist. Agric.*, B. Aires, 8, 3 pp., 1948. [Mimeographed.]

Wheat, rye, and other cereals sustain heavy damage from bunt (*Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*) in Argentina [*R.A.M.*, xxiv, p. 207], especially in the south of Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and part of Córdoba. The divergent reactions of certain varieties to different populations of the pathogens demonstrates the existence of physiologic races, but nothing is known of their distribution in the country. Inoculation experiments have shown that, in general, wheat varieties of the *Triticum vulgare* group are more susceptible than those of *T. durum*, among the resistant in the former category being Oro, Hope, Regent, Hope × Lin Calel, Cheg 89 × 5152, Klein Pirámide, and Klein Orgullo, and in the latter Mindum, Monad, South African, Taganrock, Hedba, Candéal, and Fideos Klein. Khapli (*T. dicoccum*) is also resistant. A list shows the reactions of 18 other varieties to the disease.

ROANE (C. W.). **Varietal reaction of Oats to powdery mildew in Virginia.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 9, p. 391, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

In 1948, several spring oat varieties at the Shenandoah Valley Field Station, and winter oats at Blacksburg, Virginia, were attacked by powdery mildew (*Erysiphe graminis*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 296]. The most resistant spring varieties were Vicland (8 per cent. infection), Orange 11–730 (14), Orange 33–717 (15), Benton (15), and Andrew (16). Of the winter varieties, Columbia TBH, Lee Cold Proof, Lee-Victoria × Fulwin Cl 4599, Letoria, Pioneer, Traveler, Victorgrain, and VPI # 1 were free from infection.

DENNIS (R. W. G.) & SANDWITH (N. Y.). **Aecidia of Barley rust in Britain.**—*Nature, Lond.*, clxii, 4116, p. 461, 1948.

On 14th March, 1948, the second author collected rust spermogonia on a leaf of *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* near Ham Spray, Wiltshire, and on 2nd April two aecidia were found. On 15th April, 27 of 32 infected leaves examined bore spermogonia associated with teleutosori of *Puccinia liliacearum*, but five had spermogonia and aecidia without associated teleutospores. Inoculations from these latter aecidia were made to barley seedlings and on 23rd April uredo pustules of *P. hordei* [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 99] appeared on the inoculated leaves, becoming erumpent a day later. The only patch of *O. pyrenaicum* in the original locality at Ham Spray bearing *P. hordei* was adjacent to a field which carried barley in 1947. It is con-

sidered that the aecidia may be important both in the overwintering of barley rust where *O. pyrenaicum* is locally abundant as it is in parts of south and west England, and also in affording opportunities for hybridization between existing physiological races of the fungus.

WATERHOUSE (W. L.). **Studies in the inheritance of resistance to rust of Barley.**

Part II.—*J. roy. Soc. N.S.W.*, lxxxi, pp. 198–205, 1948.

Further studies [cf. *R.A.M.*, vii, p. 314] on the resistance of barley to leaf rust (*Puccinia anomala*) [*P. hordei*: *ibid.*, xxvii, p. 316] and stem [black] rust (*P. graminis*) and to a small extent to powdery mildew (*Erysiphe graminis*) [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 296] were made at the University of Sydney in which numerous F_1 tests and a few F_2 and F_3 back-crosses from parents obtained from widely scattered sources confirmed the action of a single dominant factor for resistance to *P. hordei*. This result is entirely different from that obtained in unpublished studies on wheat leaf rust [*P. triticea*] where at least two major genes are involved. Many F_1 tests showed the dominance of resistance to *P. graminis tritici* race 43 and of susceptibility to races 34 and 45. No correlation between resistance to *P. hordei* and to *P. graminis* was found, or to certain morphological characters that were examined. Greenhouse and field tests demonstrated the resistance to *E. graminis* of C.I. 2269, C.I. 2215, C.I. 2237, C.I. 2280, C.I. 2218, C.I. 2250, Lion, No. 22, Psaknon, White Hull-less, Bolivia, C.I. 2329, Juliaca, Coast, Portuguese, Goldfoil, Hanna, Bark, Bel. 2071, Duplex, 017, Kwan, and Weider.

RAMAKRISHNAN (T. S.). **Ergot sclerotia on Sorghum vulgare Pers.**—*Curr. Sci.*, xvii, 7, p. 218, 1 fig., 1948.

Maturing sorghum crops in South India are attacked annually by the sugary disease (*Sphacelia sorghi*) [*Claviceps* sp.: *R.A.M.*, xxi, p. 206; xxiii, p. 165; xxv, p. 36] in December and January, but in the Coimbatore district only the sphacelial stage has been recorded so far.

In November, 1946, a heavy outbreak of the disease occurred in the Kurnool District, Madras Province. The ears of infected specimens exhibited profuse sclerotial formation, almost every other spikelet bearing one creamy to grey, cylindrical, elongated, or slightly curved sclerotium.

Spraying of sorghum flowers before and at the time of opening with conidial suspensions from cultures resulted in successful infection, the highest incidence occurring when inoculation took place at the time of flower opening. At Coimbatore, however, only the 'honeydew' stage developed, probably owing to high temperature; it is probable that a cooler climate is necessary for the formation of sclerotia, as its occurrence has been observed only at higher altitudes. Ergotoxine [*ibid.*, xi, p. 446] was absent from the sclerotia.

KLOTZ (L. J.) & STEWART (W. S.). **Observations on the effect of 2,4-D on fruit-stem die-back in Citrus.**—*Calif. Citrogr.*, xxxiii, 10, p. 425, 1 fig., 1 diag., 1948.

Fruit-stem die-back occurs throughout California citrus orchards, particularly on oranges and grapefruit, and is characterized by a dying of the fruit stem starting near the fruit-button and extending a few inches to as much as 3 ft. up the stem, often accentuated late in the harvest season when the trees are carrying two fruit crops, namely, mature fruit of the current crop and young fruit of next year's crop. Although the causes have not yet been clearly defined the condition is presumed to be due to adverse climatic and soil factors acting to modify the physiology of the tree. Gumming of the water-conducting vessels or the maturation of the abscission between the fruit-stem button and the fruit interferes with the supply of water entering and leaving the fruit reservoirs and may contribute towards die-back initiation. *Diplodia* and *Phomopsis* spp. have been found capable of causing

bark and wood lesions when inoculated into wounds and rapidly to involve bark that has been injured by frost, oil, or other chemical. These fungi probably play an important secondary role in killing the fruit stems after the initial injury has taken place. During 1947 important reduction of die-back was observed with all three types of citrus fruit where 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 460]) was applied one to three months prior to observation. The reduction in die-back in three plots of Valencia oranges sprayed on 26th May, two with 8 and one with 16 p.p.m. 2,4-D in water and observed on 7th August, 1947, was 83.3, 80, and 81.9 per cent., respectively, and for a plot of grapefruit sprayed on 6th June, with 8 p.p.m. 2,4-D in water and observed on 21st July, 1947, 91.6 per cent. The percentage reduction observed on 7th August, 1947, in plots of Valencia oranges sprayed on 15th October, 1946, with 5 and 25 p.p.m. 2,4-D in water was 49 and 18, respectively, and 90.8 observed on 20th May, 1947, in plots of Thomson Navel oranges sprayed on 28th February, 1947, with oil spray plus 10 p.p.m. 2,4-D. It is assumed that 2,4-D reduces fruit drop and consequently stem die-back as well, by delaying the maturation of the abscission or separation layer which holds the fruit to the stem. It is quite possible that a water stress may initiate the changes in the fruit stem which, without 2,4-D, would otherwise lead to maturation of the abscission layer.

KLOTZ (L. J.). **Citrus twig dieback.**—*Calif. Citrogr.*, xxxiii, 9, p. 381, 1 fig., 1948.

Twig die-back, which develops during the spring on Navel, Valencia, and grapefruit trees, was general throughout the citrus-growing areas of California in 1946, being particularly severe in Tulare County Navel orchards.

Twigs and small branches are killed back from a few inches to 2 ft. or more and side shoots of the current spring's growth may wilt and die. The infection may enter the main twig which is girdled, killing everything beyond to the end. Isolations from injured twigs yielded *Alternaria*, *Colletotrichum*, *Fusarium*, *Hormodendron*, and *Stemphylium* spp. besides several bacteria. The parts of the tree facing the south and south-west suffer the most injury, and groves in poor condition from lack of care, waterlogging, and cold showed more die-back than well-kept groves. The stimulus to growth and transpiration caused by unusually early warm spring weather probably plays a part in the injury since the foliage cannot be supplied with sufficient moisture by the relatively inactive roots in the cold soil. The stress also may induce gum formation which plugs the water-conducting vessels. The destruction of the injured twigs is probably completed by the fungi and bacteria present.

KIELY (T.). **Guignardia citricarpa n.sp. and its relationship to the black spot disease of Citrus in coastal orchards of New South Wales.**—*J. Aust. Inst. agric. Sci.*, xiv, 2, pp. 81–83, 1 fig., 1948.

It was formerly thought that the chief source of latent black spot infections on young Valencia [orange] fruits in New South Wales was supplied by the pycnidiospores of *Phoma citricarpa* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 469], which had developed in lesions on mature fruits. Pycnidia, spermogonia, pycnidiosclerotia, and an undescribed ascigerous stage developing within the last-named structure, were later found over the entire surfaces of dead citrus leaves of all kinds in most central coast orchards. The relationship between these structures was established, and the sexual stage is named *Guignardia citricarpa* n.sp. The fungus was also found locally in a latent form within the leaves of native shrubs in the bush and cultivated plants of nine different families.

The development of *G. citricarpa* on the surface of sterilized dying citrus leaves was found to originate from latent infections in the living green leaves and not as a saprophytic growth from spores lodging on the dead leaves. The production of

these fructifications on dead citrus leaves was all the more remarkable in that lesions on living orange leaves are very rare in the central coastal area though they are occasionally seen on lemon.

Wilting of picked green leaves in the sun for six to twelve hours greatly increased the likelihood of the development of the fungus on the leaves, and the alternate wetting and drying daily after wilting also influenced it favourably. As a rule, six days after the leaves had been removed from the tree, a profuse development of spermogonia and pycnidiosclerotia appeared. At this stage an incubation range of 25° to 30° C. was desirable. Young leaves of only a few months' maturity required much longer exposure to the sun after picking to achieve the development of the various fructifications.

Latent infections survived 18 days in wilted, air-dried citrus leaves, and produced fructifications when the leaves were subsequently wetted. This indicates that even in very hot, arid conditions without dews for several nights, latent infections probably survive, and when the alternate wetting and drying provided by dews and fine days ensues ascospore maturation and the production of ascospore inoculum is assured.

Ascocarps generally mature three to four months after leaf fall, and air-borne ascospores provide the chief source of infection, mature perithecia being found in dead citrus leaves throughout the year. Heavy dews suffice to induce ascospore discharge from mature perithecia, though at this stage rain is probably more important in securing a heavier discharge.

Deposits of Bordeaux mixture on citrus foliage in no way impede the production of the various fructifications. Its continual use in many commercial orchards for periods up to ten years at concentrations giving satisfactory control on the fruit has failed to reduce ascospore inoculum and to prevent latent infections from becoming established in the leaves. Applications made in September to protect the foliage similarly failed.

While older citrus trees provide a more constant source of inoculum from the dead leaves, latent infections have been found in apparently healthy green leaves of citrus yearling trees in coastal nurseries, and the fungus has been developed on the dead leaves from these trees. Such trees supply a continual source of potential inoculum year after year to be introduced into the inland irrigation settlements which, so far, have remained apparently unaffected. That the disease has sometimes become established in this way has been demonstrated.

An interesting feature of the disease is the manner in which infections can become established in young fruit and leaves and yet remain latent for months. On young trees the mature fruit lesions never develop. When these trees reach their eighth to tenth year in central coast areas the disease appears in its recognizable form on the mature fruit. However, the mature fruits of Valencia trees up to 25 years old in these districts are apparently unaffected, though latent infections have been found in the rind. Although an area may appear unaffected the demonstration of latent infections within the green citrus leaves and the identification of the ascigerous state on the dead leaves would prove the presence of the causal organism.

WAGER (V. A.). **The black spot disease of Citrus.**—*Fmg S. Afr.*, xxiii, 267, pp. 386–390, 3 figs., 1948.

During the past year citrus black spot (*Phoma citricarpa*) [see preceding abstract] has spread to many more orchards in eastern and northern Transvaal.

The spores of the fungus enter the fruits when they are still small but no spots develop until they begin to mature and the weather becomes warmer. The effect of temperature was demonstrated by dividing apparently healthy fruit taken from the shady side of an infected tree, into two lots, one lot being held at 60° F. and the other incubated at 80°. Spots developed on this lot after four days and after

two weeks all the fruits were severely spotted, while no spots had developed on the cooler lot after three weeks. Similar results were obtained with green fruit and slightly coloured larger fruit.

Badly spotted fruits divided into three lots and incubated at 40°, 70°, and 85° developed an average of 2, 11, and 21 new spots per fruit, respectively, at the end of one week, and an average of 2, 5, and 4 more, respectively, at the end of the second week, indicating that if infected fruit is placed in cold storage, little further infection develops, but unless such facilities are available, it is inadvisable to attempt to export fruit from an infected orchard.

Smooth lemons are most susceptible to infection and are affected at any stage, from the time the fruits are 2 in. in diameter. Rough lemons, grapefruit, mandarins, and Valencias are also affected. In the cooler areas such as the Natal mist belt the disease appears after the fruit is internally mature and has passed the government tests.

Suggested control measures include picking from infected orchards as early as possible, and from the sunny side of the tree first, inducing early ripening in infected orchards by spraying with lead arsenate (1 lb. per 100 gals. water) every third year except in areas such as Verulam and Barberton where the disease occurs early, and avoiding the propagation of young trees from nurseries in an infected area.

Spraying with Bordeaux 2-1-80 and 50 per cent. copper oxychloride (1 lb. in 80 gals.) at $\frac{2}{3}$ petal drop, with two further applications at intervals of six weeks is advised at present [cf. *R.A.M.*, xix, pp. 69, 143]. The addition of oil at 1 gal. in 40 gals. water to the third spray controls scale where necessary [loc. cit.].

MENEGHINI (M.). **Experiências de transmissão da doença 'tristeza' dos Citrus pelo pulgão preto da Laranjeira.** [Experiments in the transmission of the 'tristeza' disease of Citrus by the Orange black aphid.]—*Biológico*, xiv, 5, pp. 115-118, 1948. [English summary.]

In experiments on the transmission of 'tristeza' root rot in São Paulo, Brazil no perceptible decrease in the infectivity of *Aphis tavaresi* followed 24 hours starvation before the transference of the aphids from diseased to healthy orange plants [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 130], but after 48 hours the virulence of the vectors was almost completely lost. Nine out of ten sweet oranges of the Pear variety grafted on sour stocks 45 days after infestation by *A. tavaresi* developed root rot. When the sweet oranges were grafted on sour stocks infested 45 days earlier the results were positive in two out of ten tests.

The starch reaction test in the grafting zone was negative in seven plants (one sweet and six sour) of healthy appearance, and in eight out of 13 (six sweet, two sour, and five combinations) of sickly aspect.

Evodia hupehensis proved to be a suitable host for the breeding of *A. tavaresi*. Applied at the rate of over 200 per plant, non-viruliferous aphids bred on this host failed to infect sweet oranges grafted on sour stocks, but after previous feeding on diseased plants they induced root rot symptoms on eight out of ten. *A. tavaresi* did not exert any noticeable toxicogenic action on the experimental plants.

MOREAU (C.). **Deux maladies du Citrus bigaradia Risso au Cameroun.** [Two diseases of *Citrus bigaradia* Risso in the Cameroons.]—*Rev. Mycologie, Suppl. colon.*, xii, 3, pp. 84-86, 2 figs., 1947. [Received March, 1948.]

Among the interesting fungi collected by M. H. Jacques-Félix at Yokadouma in the Cameroons in 1939 were *Sphaeropsis tumefaciens* [*Phytopathology*, i, pp. 63-65, 1 pl., 1911] and *Ascochyta citricola* on the branches of Seville orange trees. *S. tumefaciens* which is common in Jamaica, Cuba, southern Florida, Peru, the Hawaiian Islands, and also occurs in Egypt and probably British Guiana, affects citron trees and occasionally orange trees causing growths known as knots. It

curious, however, that no such knots occurred on the Cameroons specimens, only numerous subglobose, ostiolate pycnidia isolated or grouped and measuring 120 to 230 μ in diameter, bearing all the characters of the fungus observed by Hedges and Tenny. The ovoid, yellowish spores, more or less pointed at the extremity and borne on short, fine sporophores measure 17 to 28 by 7 to 11 μ . The sole method of control consists of burning infected branches.

A. citricola, of far less importance than *S. tumefaciens*, appears on the branches as scattered, globose or subglobose, dark brown pycnidia, 90 to 150 μ in diameter, with an ostiole measuring 15 to 20 μ . The numerous ellipsoid, uniseptate, hyaline or slightly yellow spores, borne on a sporophore, measure 9 to 11 by 3.5 to 5 μ . This disease is known in South Australia, where it was found and described by McAlpine. [Fungus diseases of Citrus trees in Australia, and their treatment. Melbourne, 1899.]

WALLACE (MAUD M.). **Ascochyta blight of Cotton.**—*E. Afr. agric. J.*, xiv, 1, pp. 10–11, 3 figs., 1948.

Early in February, 1947, cotton plants in an area of 35 sq. yds. at Lubaga, Lake Province, Tanganyika, were nearly all killed by *Ascochyta* blight (*Ascochyta gossypii*) [*R.A.M.*, xx, p. 14; xxii, p. 153]. In April, 1948, the same disease was reported in spite of an abnormally dry season, from a small area at Ukiriguru in the same Province. It now seems clear from a re-examination of the specimens and records that the *Ascochyta* reported from Tanganyika in 1928 [*ibid.*, ix, p. 506] was *A. gossypii*. Apparently the fungus is often present but in an innocuous form. The control measures include a close watch for the parasite throughout the growing season, especially during and after wet weather, and the destruction of all infected plants. All ground should be carefully cleared of dead cotton trash which should be burned. Crop rotation is also suggested as a possible means of eliminating the disease.

Les champignons 'Ambrosia' en relation avec les Scolytides et Hyménoptères foreurs. ['Ambrosia' fungi in relation to Scolytids and tunnelling Hymenoptera.]—*Bull. Soc. for. Belg.*, lv, 3, pp. 135–136, 1948.

In a paper published in the Czech journal *Lesnická Práce* (No. 12, 1947) Dr. O. SLABÝ of Prague University gives a full account of the different hypotheses on which the classification of ambrosia has been based [*R.A.M.*, xv, p. 827; xviii, p. 448; xxv, p. 448]. In Czechoslovakia, the ambrosia fungus has been found only on a few phenotypes, though in tropical regions it occurs mostly on cultivated plants [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 70]. The view that moulds of the genus *Ceratostomella* are constantly associated with ambrosia has recently become more widespread. Similar moulds have been found in the larvae of *Ips typographus* [*cf. ibid.*, xviii, p. 488] but it seems that these fungi are not of the ambrosia type. The author states that many fungi resembling ambrosia have been found associated with Siricidae and Xiphydrinae. Peklo recently stated that he had found *Azotobacter* associated endosymbiotically with *I. typographus*.

CASS SMITH (W. P.) & HARVEY (H. L.). **Zinc deficiency of flax.**—*J. Dep. Agric. W. Aust.*, Ser. 2, xxv, 2, pp. 136–142, 6 figs., 1948.

Zinc deficiency of flax [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 342; *cf. xxvii*, p. 322] was first reported from Western Australia in 1943 and became serious in 1945. In the most severe cases a few top leaves and the growing point were killed when the seedlings were one to two inches high; one or two lateral shoots were frequently produced lower down. The bronzing and death of the leaves and stem below the tip is preceded by rosetting. The tip of the seedling bends as a result of stem necrosis. Bronze to black leaf-spotting, which often occurs on badly affected plants, was observed in large patches that showed none of the severe symptoms.

Observations indicate that excessive soil moisture is the most important factor associated with zinc deficiency, the severity of symptoms being in direct proportion to the amount of waterlogging. Length of day also appears to be involved, as side growth or regrowth of not too badly damaged tips takes place during the lengthening days in August, even when the soil is waterlogged. The most severe die-back occurs on grey to grey-brown, gritty or gravelly loamy sands to sandy loams with clay at a depth of one to two feet. Superphosphate dressings further the incidence of die-back.

The addition of zinc sulphate to fertilizer at planting time yielded healthy plants which had a much higher zinc content than plants which had received none.

BUCHWALD (N. F.). **Lidt om Brogetbladetheden hos Abutilon-Arter. Arvelig og vires Panachering.** [A note on leaf-breaking in *Abutilon* species. Hereditary and virus variegation.]—*Gartnertidende*, lxiv, pp. 313-317, 8 figs., 1948.

The history of infectious variegation in *Abutilon* spp. [*Abutilon* variegation virus: see above, p. 553] and some outstanding contributions to the literature on the subject are briefly summarized, and a supplementary note is given on the hereditary forms of the anomaly.

MCWHORTER (F. P.) & PRICE (W. C.). **Enation disease of Primula.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 8, p. 345, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

During 1947-8, several *Primula malacoides* plants (Pure White Improved) grown in pots in fresh potting soil in the Phipps Conservatory at Pittsburgh developed crenate veins, which gave rise to leaf-like enations on the upper surfaces of the leaves of five plants, during the early stage of flowering. Later, outgrowths developed from the bases of the original enations, from which secondary enations arose, forming clusters of five to eight leaflets, and extending as much as 20 mm. above the parent leaf. Sometimes the original enation became filiform reaching up to 25 mm. in length. It appears that the disease was introduced in the seed.

MAGIE (R. O.). **Stemphylium leaf spot of Gladiolus in Florida.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 8, pp. 344-345, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

Gladiolus growers in Florida suffer annual losses due to a leaf spot, caused by a species of *Stemphylium*. The diseased leaf and stem tissues bear round, pale yellow, translucent spots, measuring 1 to 3 mm. in diameter, with a characteristic reddish-brown centre. In most cases the leaves are killed after the flower spikes are cut, resulting in less vigorous and smaller corms, but sometimes the leaves are killed before flowering, causing a total loss.

Infection is rapid; it takes place during wet periods, killing the leaves of the most susceptible varieties after two weeks. The disease usually spreads radially from the highly susceptible varieties (Stoplight, Casablanca) to the less susceptible ones (Picardy) decreasing with the distance from the focus of infection. It does not occur during summer and autumn, but reappears in the winter, temperatures between 55° and 84° F. being most conducive to epidemics.

Fungicides have not given complete control, but spraying with zinc ethylene bisdithiocarbamate materials protected the foliage until harvest time. Phygon ($\frac{1}{2}$ -100), dithane, and parzate were also effective, but reduced the size of the corms. It is suggested that the more susceptible varieties should not be planted close to those which are less susceptible and that successive plantings of the latter should be separated by resistant varieties.

BAKER (K. F.). **Developments in California floriculture.**—*Flor. Exch.*, cx, 8, pp. 14, 52, 1948.

In this review of the present situation in the cut-flower industry in California the author states that soil-borne diseases have been responsible for the transient

nature of the cultivation of certain crops in some localities. For example, the possibility of *Fusarium* wilt [*F. conglutinans* var. *callistephi*: cf. *R.A.M.*, xvi, p. 812; xxiii, p. 489 et passim] checks the raising of China asters in soil previously planted with this crop. In low pockets in the hilly areas where asters are now grown the plants may remain wet for many hours after irrigation, and a new foliage disease of this host caused by a species of *Stemphylium* has appeared. Similarly, *Gladiolus* plantings have continually been moved because of *Fusarium* yellows [*F. oxysporum* var. *gladioli*: *ibid.*, xxv, p. 303; xxvii, p. 73], bacterial scab [*Bacterium marginatum*: *ibid.*, xxvi, pp. 59, 453], and dry rot [*Sclerotinia gladioli*: *ibid.*, xxiv, p. 103]. *Botrytis* disease of *Gladiolus* [*B. ? cinerea*: cf. *ibid.*, xx, p. 468] has become a limiting factor in *Gladiolus* production.

In 1947, stock [*Matthiola incana*] plantings were badly damaged by mosaic [cf. *ibid.*, xxv, p. 67; xxvii, p. 114] carried into the field by insects from surrounding weeds and crops. These aphids differed from those which breed in large numbers on stocks locally, and were found to feed only briefly on the plant before dying, but some success has already been achieved in their control.

KREITLOW (K. W.). **Susceptibility of some species of *Trifolium*, *Medicago* and *Melilotus* to *Erysiphe polygoni*.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 7, pp. 292–294, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

Following the infection during the winter of 1947–8 of several species of forage legumes by *Erysiphe polygoni* [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 455] in a greenhouse at the United States Regional Pasture Research Laboratory, Pennsylvania State College, containing heavily infected red clover plants, the reaction of each species was studied and the results compared with those obtained by Blumer [*ibid.*, xiii, p. 127] and Yarwood [*ibid.*, xv, p. 659]. Striking differences occurred. *Trifolium dubium* and *T. procumbens* were heavily infected though previously reported to be resistant, whereas *T. fragiferum*, susceptible in previous work, remained free from infection. The results indicate physiologic specialization.

SUNESON (C. A.). **Wild Oat selections resistant to rust.**—*J. Amer. Soc. Agron.*, xl, 4, pp. 374–375, 1948.

In California the crown and stem [black] rusts of oats (*Puccinia coronata* and *P. graminis avenae*) are maintained throughout the dry summer and autumn on occasional volunteer plants germinated and sustained by irrigation. The wild oat (*Avena fatua*), a weed on cultivated land but also an important fodder grass in California, starting growth in September is vegetatively prime for continuous overwinter production of the uredospores of both rusts. Such carriers, which have been located in March of each year since 1941, serve as foci for the spread of infection to the large contiguous wild oat populations arising from seed germinated by winter rains. From such a site, known to have been visited by severe rust epidemics for three successive years, 15 plants classified as resistant to both pathogens were selected on 18th May, 1945. Earlier in the same year the plants on a portion of this site had been attacked exclusively by *P. coronata*, and its mode of dissemination charted [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 470], but since that time there has been no epiphytotic of the disease. The crown rust races collected on the site in 1945 were identified by H. C. Murphy, Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, as 11 and 28.

In a single test in 1946 the low rust incidence on the susceptible controls precluded the definite establishment of resistance in the selected lines of *A. fatua*. However, in 1946–7, when four periodical plantings were made, the maximum degree of infection by *P. graminis* among five of the best selections (in the sowing of 20th October) was expressed by the rating 3-C in a scale of ascending severity from 1 to 4, representing moderate infection with chlorosis round the uredosori.

The highest ratings in the plantings of 28th November, 14th January, and 16th July were 2 (light infection), 2, and 1 (very resistant), respectively. Severe infection (4) occurred on control random collections in all the sowings. The maximum and minimum rust percentages shown by selections in the two early plantings (no figures are given for the later ones) were 15 and 3 and 10 and 0.3, respectively, compared with 100 and 40, respectively, in the random population. According to physiologic race identifications reported by E. C. Stakman from the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the selections were screened in the presence of race 2 of *P. graminis* in 1945 and exposed to it in 1947. It seems evident, therefore, that these selections are endowed with practical resistance to the race in question. There are indications, moreover, that the genetic basis for resistance is not the same in all five lines.

KENT (W. G.). **Fruit and vegetable storage. Report of conference held at Sittingbourne on March 3, 1948.**—*J. Minist. Agric.*, lv, 2, pp. 78–80, 1948.

At this conference J. C. FIDLER stated that scald [*R.A.M.*, xvi, p. 541; xviii, p. 117; xxvii, p. 137 *et passim*] is rare in Cox and Worcester apples, while Edward VII, Lane's Prince Albert, and Bramley's Seedling are intermediate, and Newton Wonder very susceptible. It was emphasized that the damage actually occurs during the first three to six weeks' storage when the composition of the atmosphere [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 368] should be watched carefully but it is undesirable to lower the optimum carbon dioxide content to counteract scald.

DAVIS (M. B.) & HILL (H.). **Orchard soil management and Apple nutrition.**—*Tech. Bull. Dep. Agric. Can.* 65, 28 pp., 9 figs., 6 col. pl., 1948.

This publication is a revised edition of 'Apple Nutrition' (*Tech. Bull. Dep. Agric. Can.* 32, 1941). The first section (pp. 5–14) deals with the various aspects of soil management in young and bearing apple orchards by cultural methods. In the second section (pp. 15–28) the nutrient requirements of apple trees are discussed. Deficiency symptoms [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 74] for nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, boron, iron, manganese, and zinc and their detection by symptomatic diagnosis are described. No instances of zinc deficiency in Canadian apple orchards have yet been recorded. General fertilizer recommendations and a suggested manurial programme appear at the end of the bulletin.

WALSH (J. C.). **Zinc deficiency in deciduous trees.**—*J. Dep. Agric. Vict.*, xlv, 7, p. 320, 1 fig., 1948.

Recommendations are given for the control of zinc deficiency or little leaf of deciduous [fruit] trees [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 505; cf. xxvii, p. 424], symptoms of which have appeared in parts of the Goulburn Valley and Horsham district of Victoria.

CASS SMITH (W. P.), HARVEY (H. L.), & GOSS (OLGA). **Apple scab outbreaks, season 1947–48, with special reference to the introduction of the disease by infected buds on imported nursery stock.**—*J. Dep. Agric. W. Aust.*, Ser. 2, xxv, 2, pp. 129–135, 5 figs., 1948.

Evidence indicates that the sporadic outbreaks of apple scab (*Venturia inaequalis*) [*R.A.M.*, xxiv, p. 63] in Western Australia have all originated from imported nursery stock. Following the importation of 80,000 nursery stocks from Victoria and Tasmania in the winter of 1947, numerous new apple scab outbreaks were observed the next season on the newly introduced trees or stocks in spite of their having been dipped in strong Bordeaux mixture and freed of leaves.

A new record for Australia was constituted by the detection of bud scale infections on Pomme de Neige apple seedling stocks from Tasmania, and on Northern Spy and Cleopatra from Victoria. On the infected buds were found spores and

perithecia-like bodies closely resembling the ascospores and perithecia of *V. inaequalis*.

It was recommended that all plantings of varieties in which apple scab was detected should be destroyed and other varieties in adjacent plantings cut back to basal dormant buds. In addition, in nurseries, a thorough spraying with a suitable fungicide was advised. Approximately 3,700 young trees or stocks were destroyed and about 19,000 cut back. As no safe treatment is known for the disinfection of infected buds and the introduction of nursery stock under quarantine would be extremely difficult, the complete exclusion of imported stocks and the use of local stocks only appears to be the best means of excluding the pathogen. Recently regulations to this effect have been proclaimed under the Plant Diseases Act.

HILDEBRAND (E. M.). Perennial Peach canker and the canker complex in New York, with methods of control.—*Mem. Cornell agric. Exp. Sta.* 276, 61 pp., 18 figs., 2 graphs, 1947.

Investigations, covering eight years, into the peach canker complex in New York State indicated that *Valsa cincta* and *V. leucostoma* [*R.A.M.*, xxii, p. 290] cause the severe perennial cankers, while short-lived cankers are caused by *Monilinia* [*Sclerotinia*] *fruticola* and *Fusicoccum amygdali* [*ibid.*, xx, p. 214]. The latter is regarded as very similar to, if not identical with, the conidial state of *Diaporthe eres* [*ibid.*, xxi, p. 310].

The perennial cankers are located at pruning wounds, blossom and fruit spurs, fruit pedicels, dead or injured leaders or twigs, dead buds, and at various sites of winter and mechanical injuries. A few cankers on the trunk and scaffold branches are more destructive than many on the smaller stems. The girdling becomes less frequent in older trees, but the cankers are weak points, where the heavy branches may break off.

Out of 999 cankers examined, 75 per cent. yielded pathogenic fungi, of which 55 per cent. were *V. cincta*, 39.8 per cent. *V. leucostoma*, 4.8 per cent. *S. fruticola*, and 0.4 per cent. *F. amygdali*.

Pathogenicity tests demonstrated that *V. cincta* was a severe pathogen and *V. leucostoma* a weak one in spring and autumn, whereas *S. fruticola* and *F. amygdali* were rapidly acting pathogens during the growing season.

The approximate minimum, optimum, and maximum temperatures for the growth of *V. cincta* were 3°, 20°, 30° C., for *V. leucostoma* 3°, 30°, 39°; *S. fruticola* 6°, 24°, 33°; and *F. amygdali* 6° to 9°, 27°, and 36°.

The preventive measures include the planting of new peach orchards at safe distances from diseased ones, spring pruning, prevention of winter injury by stopping cultivation before mid-July, control of brown-rot cankers (which predispose trees to perennial cankers), and prevention of insect injury.

Laboratory tests showed that mercuric chloride, mercuric cyanide, and the dinitro compounds elgetol and nitrokleenup were very toxic to all the peach fungi tested. In preliminary field experiments no injury was caused by these compounds. Water asphalt emulsion was the most effective wound dressing. Surgical treatment of young perennial cankers proved highly successful in eradicating them, but the control of older cankers by this means rarely exceeded 75 per cent.

CARDINELL (H. A.) & MITCHELL (A. E.). Packing house trials to reduce Peach-rot.—*Quart. Bull. Mich. agric. Exp. Sta.*, xxx, 4, pp. 460-467, 2 figs., 1948.

In 1947, a year of heavy infection of brown rot (*Monilinia* [*Sclerotinia*] *fruticola*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 139, 173] in Michigan peach orchards, a test load of commercially packed Elberta peaches, after brushing and dusting with sulphur plus 10 per cent. zerlate, were hydrocooled at the Millburg Growers Exchange by slow conveyance

through an 'F.M.C. Stericooler' (a product of the Food Machinery Corporation), consisting of a tank 25 by 8 ft. containing about 2,000 gals. of 32° F. ice water in which 130 p.p.m. hypo-chlor, a chlorine-type germicide, were maintained. The rate of travel "through a torrential downpour of treated ice water" determined the temperature of the fruit when it reached the end. From the belt the open wooden boxes were covered and conveyed to the cold-storage room. Peaches entering at 80° and completing passage in about 15 minutes left the machine at 45°. Half of this load, stored for seven days at 75° to 80° developed 39 per cent. rot and the rest, held for seven days at 40° plus four days at 75° to 80°, 23 per cent. Corresponding lots similarly treated but not hydrocooled developed 61 and 44 per cent. rot, respectively. To refrigerate to an average temperature of 42° about 13 lb. artificial ice per bush. peaches are required.

The most vulnerable points for entrance of rot organisms were the stem end and the point of contact with infected fruit. Storage at 40° after treatment reduced the percentage of fruit infected by the latter means from 16.4 to 5.6 per cent. in the precooled and from 25.4 to 9.2 for those dusted only.

NICOLAS (G.) & AGGÉRY (Mlle [BERTHE]). **Le dépérissement de l'Abricotier dans la région de Prades.** [Apricot wilt in the vicinity of Prades.]—*C. R. Acad. Fr.*, xxxiv, 5, pp. 252-254, 1948.

Observations were made in an eight-year-old orchard of 84 apricot trees grafted on Reine-Claude plum at Prades (eastern Pyrenees) in April and at the end of June, 1947; wilt had been present for two years and the symptoms displayed were those described by Chabrolin [*R.A.M.*, ix, p. 255]. The authors agree that the term 'apoplexy' [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 495; xxvii, p. 139] does not fitly describe the condition, since the progress of the disease is gradual. Thirty-nine trees were dead, while of the remainder some showed branch withering and others had yellowish up-curved leaves bearing small brown spots. Some of the trees which in April had all their leaves (though yellowed) were dead in June. Cracks, cankers, and clots of gum were noted on the trunks and branches. No organism was found externally associated with the condition.

Anatomical examination of young branches taken from a dying tree in April showed the characteristic brown discoloration of the phloem; numerous bacteria were present in the tissues, as noted by Rines in 1929 [*ibid.*, viii, p. 388]. The pruning affected during the first four years without antiseptics may have allowed entry to micro-organisms. The orchard had been regularly irrigated. The soil was in good cultural condition and had received proper fertilizer treatments.

TAYLOR (C. F.). **Cost of Cherry leaf spot in West Virginia in 1945.**—Reprinted from *Mountaineer Grower*, xvii, 163, 6 pp., 1947. [Received June, 1948.]

Considerable losses from cherry leaf spot [*Coccomyces hiemalis*: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 173, 175] were reported from Berkeley and Jefferson counties in West Virginia in 1946 owing to poor control in 1945. A cumulative spray experiment in which blocks of two-year-old cherry trees were sprayed with lime-sulphur (2-100), Bordeaux mixture (2-8-100), and fixed copper (copper hydro 40, 3-3-100) was carried out from 1939 to 1946, four applications being made each season. In those seasons when leaf spot developed in early summer the unsprayed and lime-sulphur-sprayed trees became defoliated at the end of August, resulting in restricted growth when compared with the copper-sprayed trees. Those sprayed with copper hydro and Bordeaux averaged at the time of writing 25 per cent. greater trunk diameter than the trees sprayed with lime-sulphur. In 1945, a year of early infection, lime-sulphur-sprayed trees had lost 98 per cent. of their leaves by 21st July whereas trees sprayed with Bordeaux or copper hydro retained their leaves throughout the season. The heavy defoliation on the lime-sulphur plots was followed by the

branches being killed during the winter, early blossoming, and a reduction in yield (average 0.25 lb. on the ten lime-sulphur-sprayed trees). In 1946 the leaf-bearing area on these trees averaged only 59 sq. ft. compared with 151 sq. ft. for the copper-sprayed trees. The copper-hydro-sprayed trees produced a crop 75 per cent. greater than did Bordeaux-sprayed trees of equal size partly due to the smaller-sized fruit on the latter trees.

The results show the remarkable protection against leaf spot and defoliation achieved by the fixed copper and Bordeaux. The value of these sprays was enhanced by the fact that only four applications were sufficient to give fairly good control of leaf spot on single trees, randomly distributed and exposed to considerable infection from surrounding unsprayed trees. Since winter hardiness is correlated with high carbohydrate reserves it appears safe to assume that the winter injury was due to lack of these carbohydrates brought on by early defoliation and further depleted by the development of the secondary growth.

A questionnaire submitted to West Virginia growers showed that 18 owned 227.5 acres of trees capable of producing 1,338.9 tons in 1946. The tonnage harvested amounted to 719.6. Of the missing 618.3 tons, 230.4 were believed lost due to spring frosts and 387.9 to the 1945 leaf spot epidemic.

PRENTICE (I. W.). Resolution of Strawberry virus complexes. II. Virus 2 (mild yellow-edge virus).—*Ann. appl. Biol.*, xxxv, 2, pp. 279–289, 1 pl., 1948.

In this further account of work on the resolution of strawberry virus complexes, some of the results of which have already been noticed [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 459], the author refers to virus 1, believed to be the mild crinkle virus, and virus 2 or mild yellow-edge virus.

Virus 1 is transmitted occasionally after an infection feeding period of one hour and is readily transmitted after 24 hours. Virus 2 is transmitted occasionally after a feeding period of 24 hours, but more often after three to four days' feeding. Virus 1 persists only for a few hours in the vector, whereas virus 2 persists for several days, nevertheless both are regarded as of the persistent type [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 245]. Symptoms appear on wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) in two to three weeks with virus 1 and four to eight weeks with virus 2. The symptoms of virus 2 resemble the mild symptoms of virus 1, but virus 2 is generally distinguishable by the leaf cupping and marginal chlorosis it causes. On Royal Sovereign virus 1 produces a faint chlorotic spotting, virus 2 causing a slight leaf chlorosis, tending to be marginal but difficult or impossible to detect on recently infected plants.

Virus 2 was transmitted from wild strawberry to Royal Sovereign and vice versa by grafting, with consistent production of appropriate symptoms, but in some aphid experiments two types of symptoms were produced by virus 2, some of the *F. vesca* indicators developing symptoms much milder than those typical of virus 2; cupping and marginal chlorosis were almost entirely absent, and the only symptoms were slight but definite chlorotic mottle, interval necrosis on the older leaves, and slight loss of vigour. It may be that the fraction described as virus 2 is itself a complex capable of further resolution, or the mild symptoms may be due merely to the isolation of a milder strain of virus 2. For the present, however, virus 2 is regarded as a single virus.

MILLER (P. W.). Studies on the cause of Strawberry root rot in Oregon: second report of progress.—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 7, pp. 309–316, 1 pl., 1948. [Mimeographed.]

Further investigations into the cause of strawberry root rot in Oregon [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 400] carried out from 1947 to 1948 were concerned primarily with further isolations from root lesions on plants collected from several different plantings in widely scattered localities in western Oregon. In addition to the widespread

red stele [red core] (*Phytophthora fragariae*) there are two well-defined types of cortical root rot, viz., brown root rot, with typically local lesions, and black root rot with more extensive cortical rot.

As before, several different fungi were found associated with lesions, the group most consistently present under all soil conditions being various species of the genera *Fusarium*, *Ramularia*, *Chaetomium*, *Rhizoctonia* [ibid., xxvii, p. 430], *Penicillium*, *Pestalotia*, *Mucor*, and *Oothecium*, the first three being the most prevalent in that order. Other fungi occasionally isolated and not previously recorded were *Phoma*, *Coniothyrium*, *Rhizopus*, *Cladosporium*, *Mycogone*, *Aspergillus*, and *Alternaria* spp. *Rhizoctonia*, *Fusarium*, and *Ramularia* spp. proved most pathogenic under greenhouse conditions.

A black root condition was produced when the roots became desiccated during digging and transplanting and experimentally by exposure to the air for certain periods. The higher the temperature and the lower the humidity, the shorter was the period required to produce black roots, as little as one hour of desiccation being required when they were air-dried in the sun at 30 per cent. or less humidity.

BRUN (J.). **La maladie de Sigatoka ou cercosporiose du Bananier (*Mycosphaerella musicola* Leach—*Cercospora musae* Zimm.).** [Sigatoka disease or cercosporiosis of the Banana plant (*Mycosphaerella musicola* Leach—*Cercospora musae* Zimm.).]—*Rev. Mycologie, Suppl. colon.*, xii, 3, pp. 71–83, 1 fig., 2 diags., 1947. [Received March, 1948.]

Banana leaf spot caused by *Mycosphaerella musicola* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 412] has been present in Africa [ibid., xix, p. 294; xxiii, p. 410; xxvi, p. 145] for some years; it has been reported from the Cameroons by Heim [*Rev. Mycologie, Suppl. colon.*, xi, 1, pp. 38–41, 1946], and diseased samples have recently been received from the regional station of the Institut des Fruits et Agrumes Coloniaux at Nyombe.

The fruits of affected plants take much longer to form than those of healthy plants owing to depleted reserves in the rhizomes. When the attack is slight only the quality of the bananas is affected while in severe cases the size of the fruit is reduced, the smell modified, and they become soft and pulpy, buff to ochre in colour, and unsaleable.

The control measures most frequently employed consist of three spray cycles using 0.5 per cent. Bordeaux mixture at 7,000 l. per hectare plus a wetter or sticker to kill the conidia in the acervuli. Perenox (0.1 per cent.) is occasionally used to check their development by poisoning the dew.

The author considers that the disease is likely to spread throughout the coastal region of French Equatorial Africa unless energetic measures are taken for its arrest.

CERIGHELLI (R.). **Dégâts provoqués par le *Thielaviopsis paradoxa* sur les Ananas frais.** [Damage caused by *Thielaviopsis paradoxa* to fresh Pineapples.]—*Fruits d'Outre-Mer*, iii, 7, p. 260, 2 figs., 1948.

Examination at Marseilles of fresh pineapples immediately after unloading showed that 85 to 90 per cent. of the fruits were in an advanced state of fermentation and when cut open displayed the brown discoloration characteristic of the early stage of infection by *Thielaviopsis* [*Ceratostomella*]; the microscopic characters of the fungus showed it to be probably *C. paradoxa* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 375]. Growers are again advised to disinfect pineapples before dispatch to market.

BALAKRISHNAN (M. S.). **South Indian Phycomycetes. I. *Pythium indicum* sp. nov. causing a fruit rot of *Hibiscus esculentus* Linn.—*Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, Sect. B, xxvii, 6, pp. 161–173, 2 figs., 1 pl., 1948.**

In October and November, 1946, *Hibiscus esculentus* fruits at Podanur, Coimbatore, India, suffered considerably from a rot causing yield reductions of over

50 per cent. The affected fruits bore large, water-soaked, sunken, brownish lesions covered with a sparse, fluffy, aerial, white, non-septate mycelium and producing a marshy odour. Numerous oogonia, antheridia, and oospores were present. When pieces of mycelium were transferred to water filamentous *Pythium* sporangia developed in 12 to 15 hours.

The fungus grew most luxuriantly on oatmeal agar, covering a 10-cm. Petri dish completely in 36 hours at 26° to 27° C.

Plants of tobacco, *Nicotiana glutinosa*, eggplant, *Solanum nigrum*, chilli (*Capsicum*), tomato, *Petunia*, papaw, squash (*Cucurbita maxima*), maize, *Amaranthus gangeticus*, *H. esculentus*, and cowpea, inoculated in the shoots or leaves or both, developed characteristic symptoms resulting in complete decay of the fruits after 4 to 7 days and death of some plants after 4 to 18 days.

The only species of *Pythium* so far recorded on *H. esculentus* is *P. debaryanum* [R.A.M., v, p. 752]. The present fungus resembles *P. indigoferae* [ibid., xv, p. 244; xx, p. 591] and *P. deliense* [ibid., xiv, p. 473] in the bending of the oogonial stalk towards the antheridium, but it differs from the former in its more vigorous growth on various media and in its production of intercalary oogonia and antheridia. It differs from *P. deliense* in its abundant aerial mycelium, its simultaneous production of both sporangia and sex organs, its abundant production of appressoria, and the long sporangial evacuation tube. It is considered to be a new species and is named *P. indicum* sp. nov. It has hyphae measuring 4 to 12 μ , mostly 8 to 10 μ in diameter. The terminal, infrequently intercalary, inflated, filamentous sporangia are up to 250 μ long, are wider than the parent hypha, and provided with lateral lobes though never forming intricate complexes. The zoospores (25 to 150) measuring 12 to 15 by 10 μ while swimming and 10 to 12 μ in diameter when encysted, are monoplanetic and germinate by the production of one to three germ-tubes. The spherical, subspherical, or barrel-shaped oogonia are terminal or intercalary, smooth-walled, and are 12 to 24 μ in diameter. The monoclinalous, rarely declinalous, single antheridia have usually a straight stalk, the oogonial stalk being bent towards it. The filamentous-clavate, terminal or rarely intercalary antheridium, which often has a distal lobe, makes apical contact with the oogonial wall. The moderately thick fertilization tube is clearly visible. The smooth, aplerotic oospores, 10 to 20 μ in diameter, have a moderately thick wall and contain a single reserve globule and a single refringent body.

1947 fungicide tests : a summation of nation-wide results with newer fungicides.—

Plant Dis. Repr., Suppl. 176, pp. 95–142, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

This report, compiled by a sub-committee comprising H. P. Barss *et al.* of the Fungicide Committee of the American Phytopathological Society, on the performance of more than 130 of the newer fungicides used on various fruit, vegetables, and ornamental plants including shade trees and turf, and as seed treatments for cereals and cotton, is based on information received from about 145 plant pathologists in 47 States and Provinces of the United States and Canada. The fungicides used in the experiments are listed, and the chemical formulae and names of the manufacturing companies are specified.

From the results with fruit diseases phygon was shown to give consistently the best control of apple scab [*Venturia inaequalis*], though lacking in safety. It was also effective in Delaware against peach brown rot [*Sclerotinia fructicola*] in the blossom phase, whereas in other test applications to growing and mature fruit it was not so satisfactory as sulphur or the dithiocarbamates. Fermate [R.A.M., xxvi, p. 347] gave especially good results in the control of apple rust [*Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae*: loc. cit. and xxvii, p. 174], Brooks's fruit spot of apples [*Phoma pomi*: ibid., xxv, p. 398] (ranking equally with copper materials), apple blotch [*Phyllosticta solitaria*], pear scab [*V. pirina*] (equally zerlate), black

rot of grapes [*Guignardia bidwellii*: *ibid.*, xxvi, p. 182], and raspberry leaf diseases. The chromates, especially 169, appear promising in the control of early and late blights of potatoes [*Alternaria solani* and *Phytophthora infestans*]; dithane Z-78 also gave encouraging results in the control of several vegetable diseases [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 472]. Excellent results were obtained by using combinations of dithiocarbamates, e.g., zerlate-parzate, on potatoes, tomatoes, and cucurbits. Applications of ceresan M proved useful for treating seed of barley, oats, wheat, and flax; Dow B for cotton, maize, and groundnuts; mycotox for cotton; and phygon for cereals, sugar beet, and vegetables.

HAMNER (C. L.) & TUKEY (L. D.). **A simple device for applying ground sprays.**—*Quart. Bull. Mich. agric. Exp. Sta.*, xxx, 4, pp. 468–472, 4 figs., 1948.

Details are given of the construction of an inexpensive, easily operated sprayer suitable for fungicides developed at Michigan State College, from an ordinary 3-gal. hand-sprayer, mounted on a hand garden cultivator and equipped with a 4-nozzle ($\frac{1}{4}$ -in.) spray boom which can be clamped to the cultivator at any convenient height. A petrol filter is used to remove all large particles that might clog the nozzles. There is a hand-operated shut-off valve. The sprayer will cover a swathe 8 ft. wide and, with a small delivery and rapid walking rate it is possible to cover several acres in a day using only 3 gals. concentrated spray material per acre.

PEROTTI (R.). **Biologia vegetale applicata all' agricoltura.** [Plant biology applied to agriculture.] **I. Generalità'. Malattie non-parassitarie.** [I. Generalities. Non-parasitic diseases.]—10+895 pp., 221 figs. (5 col.), 26 graphs, 1948, Lire 5,600 or \$10; **II. Batteriologia.** [II. Bacteriology.]—x+1057 pp., 2 col. pl., 221 figs. (3 col.), 47 graphs, 1943. Lire 5,600 or \$10; **III. Micologia—Malattie parassitarie.** [III. Mycology—Parasitic diseases.]—x+1191 pp., 1 col. pl., 395 figs. (2 col.), 5 graphs, 1940. Lire 8,600 or \$15. All second editions, Turin, Rosenberg & Sellier. [Received October, 1948.]

This first volume of a work in which the author's aim has been to co-ordinate the facts of plant biology in their fundamental application to agriculture includes, *inter alia*, chapters dealing with symbiosis (pp. 301–326), defects of functional correlation (pp. 327–348), defective symbiosis (pp. 349–372), pathology of grafting (pp. 393–418), etiology and therapy (pp. 459–484), light, and diseases due to excessive or deficient light (pp. 485–536), to excessive or insufficient heat (pp. 537–558), to electricity and magnetism (pp. 601–622), to excess or insufficiency of water (pp. 623–648), of organic matter in the soil (pp. 675–694), of nutrients (pp. 695–742), to mechanical causes (pp. 743–776), and to poisons (pp. 777–814).

In volume II, in which O. VERONA has collaborated, chapters are devoted, *inter alia*, to the chemical composition of bacteria (pp. 31–48), the principles of microscope measurement (pp. 79–114), cellular constitution (pp. 143–158), vital staining (pp. 183–222), nutrition (pp. 223–240), respiration and fermentation (pp. 241–268), reproduction (pp. 367–392), systematics of the bacteria (pp. 393–444), and nitrogen fixation and symbiosis (pp. 631–686).

In volume III [*R.A.M.*, xx, p. 128] the author deals with mycology and parasitic diseases, each disease being approached from the following standpoints: history, symptoms, biology of the parasite, parasite-host relations, conditions governing infection, and control. The opening chapters deal, respectively, with parasitic diseases in general (pp. 1–30), bacterial diseases causing neoformations (pp. 31–62), tumours and cankers (pp. 63–94), pathological anatomy (pp. 95–122), bacterial diseases causing necrosis (pp. 123–190), diseases caused by ultra-microscopic organisms (pp. 191–240), and are followed by 22 chapters each treating the diseases caused by a specific group of fungi, and two final chapters on the parasitism of the

algae (pp. 1007–1050), and immunity and general methods of disease control (pp. 1051–1092).

GÄUMANN (E.). **On the term 'resistance' in plant pathology.**—Reprinted from M.O.P. Iyengar Commemoration Volume, *J. Indian bot. Soc.*, 1946, pp. 87–89, 1947.

The author expresses the view that the terms 'resistance' and 'resistant', as used in plant pathology, no longer correspond to one well-defined significance. At present, they are employed to mean either (a) a definite degree of susceptibility, as in the disease index scales, or (b) definite causes or definite material elements in this greater or lesser susceptibility. This latter includes two notions which can best be understood by a comparison with human warfare: static resistance corresponds to the natural objects (mountains, etc.), which oppose an invading army, while dynamic resistance corresponds to the active defence of a country by its people. For the sake of simplicity the author has proposed in a recent book [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 173; see also xxvi, p. 22] to differentiate clearly between the insufficient suitability of a plant to act as host and its insufficient readiness or 'willingness' to do so. He calls the former condition 'axeny'; it is present before infection, is essentially passive (an axenic plant is not literally 'resistant', but is merely 'not liable to infection'), it depends on inherited factors existing independently of the pathogen, and finally it means a general inhospitality of the organism, whereas defensive reactions are 'intentional' for protection against a specific disease.

DEXTER (S. T.). **A colorimetric test for estimating the percentage moisture or the storage quality of farm products or other dry materials.**—*Quart. Bull. Mich. agric. Exp. Sta.*, xxx, 4, pp. 422–426, 2 col. pl., 1948.

A colorimetric method has been devised for reading over a wide range the degree of dampness of stored farm products [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 325]. A small sample of the material to be tested is shaken up to 200 times in a glass container with a small quantity of water adsorbent, potassium thiocyanate, or common non-iodized table salt. With the former is added ferric sulphate which reacts to produce gradual colour change from almost white to deep red indicating a range of moisture content from 7 to 12 per cent. in oats or wheat. To the latter adsorbent are added anhydrous ferric ammonium sulphate and potassium ferrocyanide, which react to give a range from almost white to deep blue indicating a moisture content range from 12 to 17 per cent. The adsorbents become wet and sticky when the moisture content of the grain exceeds 11 and 15 per cent. for each chemical, respectively. These numerical values apply only to oats or wheat. The method can also be used for paper, wood, flour, tobacco, sugar, starch, hay and flax seed, appropriate calibration of the colour ranges for each product being necessary. In testing ground-mill feeds or flour it is advisable to place the chemical in a tissue paper envelope to avoid contamination of colour dilution by the sample. The tests should be done at or near the temperature at which storage is to take place.

SCARTH (G. W.), LOEWY (A.), & SHAW (M.). **Use of the infra-red total absorption method for estimating the time course of photosynthesis and transpiration.**—*Canad. J. Res.*, Sect. C, xxvi, 1, pp. 94–107, 1 fig., 9 graphs, 1948.

A modification of Dingle and Pryce's apparatus [*Proc. roy. Soc.*, cxxix, pp. 468–474, 1940] for determining the concentration of carbon dioxide in air by non-spectroscopic measurement of its absorption of infra-red is described. Its greater accuracy enables less than one part per million of carbon dioxide to be measured at speeds from 10 min. intervals to continuous reading. The use of the technique in following the time course of photosynthesis and transpiration is described.

WEATHERBURN (MURIEL W.). **The rot-proofing of textile and related materials—a survey of literature.** pp. iii+184, Publ. No. 1601, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, 1947. [Mimeographed.]

This comprehensive survey of literature dealing with rotproofing of textiles comprises chapters on inorganic, metal-organic, and organic compounds (the latter being subdivided into arbitrary divisions of phenolic, nitrogen-containing, and sulphur-containing compounds and dyes), natural products, and mixtures of compounds. The compounds dealt with are listed alphabetically under the name of the compound with notes on their use and references to an extensive bibliography of 383 titles. Tabulated data on the action of large numbers of compounds from published sources are given on pp. 89-145. A complete classified list of the compounds dealt with, and a manufacturer's list of rot-proofing compounds with the active ingredient specified, are appended.

H[ARVEY] (C.). **Food losses caused by insects and mould fungi.**—*Agric. J. Fiji*, xix, 1, p. 11, 1948.

Copra dried to a moisture content of six or seven per cent. suffers little if any breakdown from moulds or insects. C. L. Southall [*Agric. J. Fiji*, i, 3, p. 29, 1927] has shown that copra dried to 8.8 per cent. moisture content (a figure much below that of some of the copra in Fiji to-day) could lose 9 per cent. of its dry weight during six weeks' storage, or that dried to 15 per cent. could lose 20 per cent. If a low average figure for preventable loss through moulds and insects of, say, 5 per cent. is taken at present, this represents 1,700 tons of the 1947 production of 34,916 tons. At £40 per ton, this loss amounts to £68,000. Hence, producers could afford to spend £50,000 a year on improving copra by better drying.

JACOBS (S. E.) & MARSDEN (A. W.). **The role of antibiotics in the decomposition of sawdust. II. Inhibition of the growth of cellulose-decomposing fungi.**—*Ann. appl. Biol.*, xxxv, 1, pp. 18-24, 1948.

In examining the antibiotic effect of deal sawdust (from a variety of white coniferous woods) on the growth of cellulose-decomposing fungi on Czapek-Dox agar, the authors found that *Stachybotrys atra* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 291] and *Chaetomium indicum* [ibid., xxvii, p. 378] were strongly inhibited by the autoclaved cold water extracts of sawdust, but *C. globosum* [ibid., xxvii, p. 436] only slightly so. The extracts also contained substances which stimulated the growth of *C. globosum*, but not that of the other fungi. The formation of perithecia by *C. indicum* and *C. globosum* was also stimulated by the extract but the growth of species of *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* was neither inhibited nor stimulated.

SPROSTON (T.), LITTLE (J. E.), & FOOTE (M. W.). **Antibacterial and antifungal substances from Vermont plants.**—*Bull. Vt agric. Exp. Sta.* 543, 7 pp., 1948.

Of 73 plant extracts tested for antibacterial and antifungal activity [*R.A.M.*, xxiv, p. 479; xxvi, p. 119] that from *Impatiens biflora* was most toxic to *Sclerotinia fructicola*, *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*, and *Rhodotorula glutinis*. The bacteria tested were not outstandingly sensitive to any of the extracts. Further work is in progress.

LOEST (F. C.). **Plant diseases and cultural operations.**—*Fmg S. Afr.*, xxiii, 267, pp. 383-385, 1948.

The main conditions contributing to the incidence of dry root rot and *Diplodia* gummosis in citrus caused by *D. natalensis* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 351], avocado root rot caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* [ibid., xxvii, p. 327], and foot rot of papaw caused by *Pythium* spp. are impaired soil aeration and changes in the nitrogen

level brought about by excess water. Many parasitic soil organisms have a lower oxygen requirement than the roots of higher plants and can grow in aqueous solutions that injure or kill such roots. Soils in poor physical condition also aggravate these diseases. The formation of a hard pan or impervious layer beneath the soil surface, planting on impervious subsoil, over irrigation, and uncontrolled irrigation by planting too many trees in a run all tend to create a waterlogged condition which favours the development of the root rot organisms. *Phytophthora citrophthora* [ibid., xxvi, p. 12] is largely prevented by constructing basins 2 to 3 ft. in diameter, to prevent irrigation water from reaching the trunks of citrus trees. Seepage of water from furrows, springs, or reservoirs is a not uncommon factor inducing root decay in avocado, papaw, and citrus. Intercropping avocado and citrus orchards with vegetable crops that need constant irrigation sometimes leads to root rot and should be avoided. The vegetative vigour of the plant is closely related to the degree of parasitism of the organism attacking it (e.g., lemon trees may become heavily attacked by *D. natalensis* when leaching or insufficient nitrogen application has induced a low nitrogen level in the soil). There is a strong interdependence of plants, soil, disease, and climate. Unhygienic cultural methods are frequently the underlying cause of root diseases.

MOSTAFA (M. A.) & NAÏM (M. S.). Stimulation of adventitious root formation by fungal metabolic products.—*Nature, Lond.*, clxii, 4119, pp. 575–576, 3 figs., 1948.

When freshly cut, healthy, wilt-resistant Ashmouni cotton shoots were placed in an unheated filtrate from a culture of *Fusarium vasinfectum* in Richards's solution, adventitious roots started to form on the fourth day, but no similar phenomenon was observed with the susceptible Giza 26 or with a heated filtrate. The aqueous solution of the precipitate, produced when the culture filtrates of *F. lycopersici* and *F. vasinfectum* were treated with 96 per cent. alcohol, stimulated adventitious root formation of North Dakota and Prichards tomato shoots, their development being more vigorous in the latter variety. The fungal metabolic substances responsible for root stimulation appear to be thermolabile and filterable through a Berkefeld filter. Further studies are in progress.

ROBERTS (F[LORENCE] M.). Experiments on the spread of Potato virus X between plants in contact.—*Ann. appl. Biol.*, xxv, 2, pp. 266–278, 1948.

This is the full account of field and glasshouse experiments at Rothamsted covering three years on the spread of five strains of potato virus X using seven potato varieties and also tomato plants [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 120]. The strains used were X^m, a mild strain from symptomless Majestic stock seed; X^B, potato virus B [ibid., xxv, p. 73]; X^Y, a strain found in naturally infected Majestic and which causes a yellow mottle in Majestic, *Datura stramonium*, tobacco, and tomato; X^N [ibid., xxvi, p. 123]; and X^K [ibid., xxvii, p. 536], a strain from one shoot of a Majestic (stock seed) plant showing mosaic and necrotic spots. The virulent strains attain a high concentration in infected plants and spread more rapidly than the avirulent. In only one experiment with potatoes did more than 10 per cent. of healthy plants exposed to the virus become infected during one season. *D. stramonium* and tomato plants became infected when grown in soil containing sap or residues from infected plants. It was commonly found that in the field potato plants whose foliage gave no reaction for virus X yielded at the close of the season a mixed progeny of healthy and infected tubers, and such infections are attributed to underground spread. No instances of infection were observed except when healthy plants had been in direct contact with sources of the virus.

In conclusion it is pointed out that in work with potato virus X, unless potato plants are known not to have been in contact with any disease source, individual

tests on the tubers are necessary to ensure that they are virus-free. Tests on the foliage of the parent plants alone are not reliable.

VASUDEVA (R. S.) & AZAD (R. N.). **Potato necrosis.**—*Curr. Sci.*, xvii, 7, pp. 216–217, 2 figs., 1948.

Darjeeling Red Round potato plants, raised from virus-free seed tubers in an insect-proof house, developed dwarfing and curling of the leaves and necrosis of the growing point which progressed downward, ultimately killing many of the plants. Virus-free President and Craigs Defiance were affected by a similar disease, which, however, was not necrotic and did not result in the death of the plants.

The disease was successfully transmitted by grafting to healthy potatoes, (Phulwa, Craigs Defiance, President, Arran Victory), to Sutton's Early Market tomato, and to Harrison's Special tobacco which responded by mottling and foliar distortion. In transmission tests *Bemisia gossypiperda* was found to be the vector of the disease, transmitting it to tomato and tobacco after having fed for 24 hours on the infected material. Potatoes were not included in these tests, owing to the lack of sufficient virus-free stock.

The symptoms on the differential hosts show that the necrosis had been caused by a mild strain of tobacco leaf curl virus [*R.A.M.*, xxiv, p. 292].

WILSON (J. H.). **The use of the phloroglucinol test for diagnosis of leaf roll in Potatoes.**—*J. Aust. Inst. agric. Sci.*, xiv, 2, pp. 76–78, 1948.

In Tasmania, where the chief potato variety, Brownell, and also Up-to-Date (third in importance) are particularly susceptible, leaf roll [*R.A.M.*, ix, p. 332] has long presented a problem in seed potato production. The limiting factor in control has been difficulty of identification owing to the masking of symptoms in the field. Immediate success in identification, however, followed the use of a modification of Miss Sheffield's technique for detecting phloem necrosis [*ibid.*, xxii, p. 447], concentrated hydrochloric acid (10 N) replacing the 50 per cent. recommended. Necrotic phloem turned pink to purplish-red and stood out very clearly. The observations agreeing with Sheffield's were: (1) stained areas characteristic of leaf roll infection were not seen except in the primary phloem region; (2) phloem necrosis appeared to be a constant, specific character of leaf roll plants; (3) rolling of leaves occurring as a varietal character (in new hybrids) and that due to *Rhizoctonia* [*Corticium solani*] were not accompanied by necrosis; (4) necrosis was present in the internal or external phloem or both, but was usually confined to the external. Cases were frequently encountered in which severity of external symptoms bore little or no relation to the amount of necrosis present. That some plants considered doubtful in the field should show severe internal necrosis, whereas others with marked leaf roll and dwarfing were only moderately necrotic, is evidence that leaf roll and necrosis are not related in the manner of cause and effect.

JAMALAINEN (E. A.). **The significance of Potato virus diseases in Finland.**—Reprinted from *Maataloust. Aikakausk.*, 1946, 18, pp. 134–346, 1946. [Finnish summary.]

In most parts of Finland the incidence of potato virus diseases is negligible because of the climatic conditions. Owing to spring frosts potatoes are usually planted at the beginning of June in south Finland and in the middle of June in the rest of the country. The haulms frequently become frozen in the middle of September in the south, and earlier still elsewhere.

Mild mosaic [? potato mottle], streak [? potato virus Y], and crinkle [? virus X + virus A] occur mainly in the southern provinces of Turku, Pori, Uusimaa, and Häme, but the damage caused is usually insignificant.

Detailed observations, carried out during 1939–43 and in 1945 at the Hankkija Plant Breeding Station, near Helsinki, where imported potato varieties are received, showed that in experiments where tubers from the same plants were used year after year the Juli variety was 100 per cent. virus (crinkle+streak) diseased, Eigenheimer, Frühgold, Goldwährung, Up-to-Date, Bintje, and Magnum Bonum being 20 to 35 per cent. diseased. Flava, King George V, Konsuragis, Ostbote, Paul Wagner, Rosafolia, and Early Tammisto had on an average 3 to 10 per cent. disease. Virus diseases were especially abundant in 1941–2 but in other years infection was low. At the Piikkioo Agricultural Experiment Station early varieties seem to be more susceptible than late ones. At the Plant Cultivation Experiment Station, Pälkäne, some of the best cooking varieties, e.g., Preussen, Edda, and Goldwährung, have had to be abandoned because of virus diseases which are on the increase. Ostbote has remained completely healthy. Leaf roll and aucuba mosaic are practically absent. Rosafolia, the most cultivated potato variety, is highly resistant to all virus diseases.

It is suggested that in Finland the cultivation of virus free seed potatoes for export should be started, as there is a great demand for these in many countries.

OLLILA (LAILA). **Tuhosienien merkityksestä Perunavarastojen turmelijoina suomenmessä.** [On the significance of fungous diseases in stored Potatoes in Finland.] —*Maataloust. Aikakausk.*, 19, pp. 89–98, 1947. [English summary.]

The results of many years' studies in Finland of potato diseases in storage showed that about 10 per cent. of the damage is due to fungous diseases. Of these potato blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) [*R.A.M.*, xvii, p. 58] is the most serious, about 70 to 90 per cent. of stored potatoes being affected. Bacteria [unspecified] are responsible for the decay of the rest. *Fusarium solani* [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 12], *F. sambucinum*, *F. merismoides*, and *F. avenaceum*, frequently isolated from stored potatoes, occur only as saprophytes. Only *F. caeruleum* was established as a parasite in a few cases, but is of little importance. The tubers also yielded several saprophytic species of *Cylindrocarpon*. The need for growing blight-resistant varieties is emphasized.

Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding. Report (abridged) by the Directors and Report of the Director of Research to the Annual Meeting, 29th July, 1948.—46 pp., 1948.

In this report of the Director of Research [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 74] W. BLACK and J. C. HAIGH (p. 12) state that potato breeding experiments have yielded several selections which appear to be highly resistant to common and powdery scab [*Actinomyces scabies* and *Spongospora subterranea*, respectively]. Tests are being made to confirm that some exotic species are immune from blackleg [*Erwinia phytophthora*] with a view to their utilization in breeding experiments.

Seedlings 831 (113) and 835 a (4) compared favourably with the control varieties in the 1947 and 1948 Lord Derby Gold Medal Trials and have since been named respectively, Craigs Royal (field immune from viruses X and A) and Craigs Snow-White (immune from strains A and C of *Phytophthora infestans* [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 291] and field immune from viruses X, A, B, and C). Seedlings 833 b (98), 834 c (29), and 914 a (12) are immune from blight strains A and C while 1318 (3) is immune from blight strains A and B and from virus strains X, A, and B. Several seedlings including 833 b (98), Craigs Snow-White, and 914 a (12) have given encouraging results under tropical conditions and have so far remained free from blight in East and South Africa [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 224]. Some are being multiplied on a commercial scale for distribution to farmers.

Hitherto tests for field immunity to viruses X, B, A, C, and Y have been made exclusively by graft transmissions requiring a considerable amount of infected

material for scions and a long period before the virus can be recovered from susceptible varieties. G. COCKERHAM and T. M. R. M'GHEE (p. 18) state that by using leaf inoculation wherever possible, and serological tests for recovering the X viruses, time and space requirements have been greatly reduced and the number of tests each season correspondingly increased. The problem of leaf roll resistance is also being examined to determine the most efficient form of trial for obtaining adequate data on comparative resistance from a minimum number of tubers in a minimum of time.

A previously suspected immunity from virus Y of the non-susceptible type was confirmed in a variety of *Solanum rybinii*. The inheritance of this character and that of hypersensitiveness to virus Y was studied in seedling progenies.

Promising seedlings immune from two or more strains of *P. infestans*, field immune from viruses X, A, C, and Y and resistant to leaf-roll have been obtained.

An examination of 160 sources of virus X selected from material showing a wide variety of symptoms in 1946, has proved that the problem of differentiating strains is extremely complex. All varieties possessing the genes Nx and Nb are field immune from every recorded strain of virus X. A preliminary trial of the effects of virus X on yield revealed that infections with mild strains of the virus in the varieties Majestic and Kerr's Pink produced higher yields than in the uninfected controls.

A survey of plants infected with virus Y showed the presence of only one strain of this virus in the sources examined [ibid., xxvii, p. 332].

Informaciones de interés para los trabajos de selección de Papas resistentes a *Phytophthora infestans*. [Notes of interest for the work of selection of Potatoes resistant to *Phytophthora infestans*.]—*Hoja inform. Minist. Agric., B. Aires*, 10, 3 pp., 1948. [Mimeographed.]

Some of the physiologic races of *Phytophthora infestans* occurring in Argentina [*R.A.M.*, xxiii, p. 242] attack seedlings (the progeny of true seed), varieties, and wild forms of potato regarded in other countries as resistant or immune, denoting a high order of pathogenicity in the endemic population of the fungus. Six resistant United States seedlings, viz., C.V.I.-2, D.G.H.-9, D.K.N.-2, 96-44, B 76-43, and B 192-17 reacted as follows to two Argentine races in a scale ranging from 0 (immune) to 4 (maximum susceptibility): the stems of all were immune from isolation 358, while the grades of foliar infection were 0-1, 1, 1-2, 1, 1, and 0-1, respectively. The types of infection induced by isolation 167 were represented by grades 2 to 4 on the stems of each of the seedlings except B 192-17, which was immune, and by 3 to 4 on the leaves of all.

These data indicate that the development of resistance to the virulent races of the pathogen indigenous to the country will present great difficulties. Promising material for the purpose may be sought among the English seedlings 834 c (29) and 914 a (12) [see preceding abstract], and to a lesser extent in C.Z.K.-7 and 96-28 from the United States.

HELLMERS (E.). **Kartoffelbrokkens Udbredelse i Danmark 1923-1946.** [The distribution of Potato wart in Denmark 1923 to 1946.]—*Ugeskr. Landm.*, xciii, pp. 103-104, 1 graph, 1948.

Since the publication in 1936 of Ferdinandsen's survey of potato wart [*Synchytrium endobioticum*] in Denmark [*R.A.M.*, xvi, p. 56], the disease has spread from its original main focus in southern Jutland to all parts of the country. The number of areas under quarantine, moreover, has risen steadily, the rate of extension having been particularly alarming since 1939, between which year and 1946, taking the country as a whole, 14 municipalities on an average have been banned

annually compared with eight to nine from 1923 to 1938, while the total number excluded from cultivation was 199 in 1946 as against 121 in 1935.

MUNCIE (J. H.) & MOROFFSKY (W. F.). **Nitroacetate and nitrodithioacetates as Potato sprays.**—*Quart. Bull. Mich. agric. Exp. Sta.*, xxx, 4, pp. 445–447, 1948.

Results of tests carried out in 1947 at Lake City using Menominee potatoes and seven spray applications of zinc and copper nitrodithioacetates and copper nitroacetate combined with either DDT or benzene hexachloride as insecticides and using fixed copper and Bordeaux as controls, showed that in a season of light early blight [*Alternaria solani*] infestation the highest yield of U.S. No. 1 potatoes (262.3 bush. per acre) was obtained from the plots sprayed with a combination of zinc nitrodithioacetate and copper nitroacetate with DDT (1–1–1–100). All the new materials whether used alone or in combination gave significantly higher yields than Bordeaux mixture, fixed copper, genicop, or DDT alone. Plots sprayed with the new materials had only 1 to 1.5 per cent. infection of *Alternaria* blight compared with 5 per cent. for Bordeaux with no decrease in yield.

CALLBECK (L. C.). **Current results with Potato vine killers in Prince Edward Island.**—*Amer. Potato J.*, xxv, 6, pp. 225–233, 1 fig., 1948.

Among the potato vine-killers tested at Charlottetown in 1947 dowspray 66 improved and sinox general [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 561 and next abstract] were the most effective. Mixtures of sodium arsenite herbicides with oil (miscible oil, fuel oil, or waste crankcase oil) were equally effective, greatly improving the action of sodium arsenite alone. The premature killing of vines may induce a vascular discoloration in the tubers, the most rapid killers causing the most pronounced effects [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 493]. Thus tubers treated with dowspray 66 improved were the most severely affected, the amount and intensity of discoloration in tubers increasing with the age of the plants. The greatest injury occurred in those killed late in the season. Tubers from untreated cut vines showed a greater incidence of stem-end discoloration than tubers from untreated control plants, or from plants destroyed by slow-acting herbicides. The vine-killers did not impair the culinary quality of the tubers.

Potato top killers show promise.—*Agric. Chemicals*, iii, 7, pp. 49, 51, 2 figs., 1948.

Tests carried out in the potato-growing areas of Florida, Pennsylvania, Maine, and New York State during the past two seasons showed that single applications of penite 6, a non-selective sodium arsenite weed killer manufactured by the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia and Tacoma, Washington, at 4 qts. per 100 gals. water and used at the rate of 80 gals. per acre gave very satisfactory kill of potato haulms [see preceding abstract] prior to harvest. Although kills varied in rapidity with the time of day and weather conditions, the final results were always satisfactory provided that good coverage was obtained. In cases where haulm-growth was very dense a second spray applied after a three- to five-day interval was sometimes found to be necessary. Numerous analyses of treated potatoes indicated that no arsenic was absorbed from sprays of this type.

RAMAKRISHNAN (K. V.). **Studies on the morphology, physiology, and parasitism of the genus *Piricularia* in Madras.**—*Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, Sect. B, pp. 174–193, 1 pl., 11 graphs, 1948.

In this paper the author stresses the interdependence of morphology, physiology, and pathology in the classification of fungal parasites. Studies of four isolates of *Piricularia*, obtained from rice (*P. oryzae*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 443, 494], *Eleusine coracana*, *Setaria italica* (named *P. setariae* by Nisikado) [*ibid.*, vi, p. 637], and *Digitaria marginata*, revealed no appreciable difference in their morphological

characters. The only differences observed were in the nature of infection and symptoms, which were foliar, nodal, and earhead in rice and *E. coracana*, and foliar only in *D. marginata* and *S. italica*, forming roundish leaf spots in *S. italica* and spindle-shaped ones on the other hosts. The nature of the leaf spots seems to depend entirely on the host, as *E. coracana* when inoculated with the *S. italica* isolate developed spindle-shaped spots, whereas the *E. coracana* isolate on *S. italica* formed roundish spots.

The results of physiological studies indicated that the isolates from rice, *S. italica*, and *E. coracana* hardly differed in their behaviour in culture. The *D. marginata* isolate was distinct from the others in colour, in not favouring cellulose as carbon source, and in being unable to grow in agar media with ammonium sulphate as the nitrogen source: its optimum growth temperature was 15° C. (30° for the other three). Isolates from *E. coracana* and *S. italica* produced the enzyme erepsin, whereas those from rice and *D. marginata* did not.

Cross-inoculation experiments conducted under optimum conditions for infection of the hosts showed that the isolate from rice is distinct from the other three in that it infects no other host but rice [cf. *ibid.*, vi, p. 637]. The isolate from *S. italica* infects its own host and *E. coracana* only; the *E. coracana* isolate infects its own host and *S. italica*. The isolate from *D. marginata* is pathogenic to rice and *E. coracana* in addition to its own host. The four isolates are regarded as physiologic races of *P. oryzae*.

HANSFORD (C. G.). **The 1947 Oidium season at Dartonfield.**—*Quart. Circ. Ceylon Rubb. Res. Scheme*, xxiv, 1-2, pp. 23-28, 1947.

On the Dartonfield rubber estate, Ceylon, the 1947 season was one of mild to medium attack by *Oidium* [heveae: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 449] as measured by the leaf fall sustained, though on late-wintering trees infection was severe. Two to five sulphur dustings over the whole estate probably saved some of the old seedling rubber still in a susceptible condition; more frequent dusting appeared to be uneconomic.

During January minimum temperatures, from 70° to 73° F., were too high for epidemic development, and in February moisture conditions did not greatly favour infection, though the minimum temperature ranged as low as 62°. During March frequent light showers made conditions more favourable for the fungus, and although night temperatures were mostly above 70°, the disease caused defoliation of trees whose foliage had been in a suitable condition in the first ten days of the month.

In Malaya the view is taken that the comparative freedom from the disease there is due to high temperatures and low daytime humidities during refoliation. In Ceylon it is becoming apparent that humidity is much the more important, at least in the low country, and that, given suitable ranges of humidity for long periods, the fungus can cause important damage even when the temperature is too high for optimum growth. In the higher parts of Ceylon the night temperatures assist the fungus to attain maximum development and here the disease is much more dangerous and difficult to control.

It has been generally accepted that *O. heveae* remains dormant in the buds and that as they develop the fungus develops with them and becomes able to infect the young leaves on a wide scale if conditions are favourable. The author considers this theory doubtful as the fungus would then be able to grow along the developing stems and leaves and cover them every year with its colonies. But he has found no trace of such growth, the first sign of infection being when the young shoots are about an inch long. At a later stage the fungus is able to attack and kill the flowers and the stems bearing them. It is evident, therefore, that the fungus is not necessarily unable to attack young stem tissue, and its absence from the developing branches would appear to indicate that it is not present in the buds.

When bare branches were bagged in two experiments all the leaves and shoots that developed inside were free from infection, though all those outside on the same trees developed the disease. The author considers that it is now sufficiently established that the annual infection epidemic originates from outside the individual trees infected and is air-borne. At present the only method of control is by protective sulphur dusting. In the Kalutara district it is doubtful whether this is economic over a long period of years, though in epidemic seasons it certainly minimizes the damage. In other localities, especially at higher elevations, regular and frequent sulphur dusting remains essential, and where efficiently carried out gives commercial control.

At present *O. heveae* is not a serious menace in the low-lying parts of Ceylon; in fact, a mild attack does good, since it controls seed production and reduces later damage by *Phytophthora* [*meadii* and *P. palmivora*]. In the higher regions, however, the disease is a major factor in production, and many estates in these areas may probably turn over in time to other crops.

The search for more resistant clones must be continued, though only Asiatic material is available at present. Late-wintering varieties which do not suffer much from leaf shedding are more likely to be of value over wide areas in Ceylon than varieties which winter early, because in some seasons the danger period may begin early in the wintering season, and even early-wintering clones might then suffer severely.

The sooner the whole of the old seedling rubber in Ceylon is replaced by budded clones the better, from all points of view. The seedling areas show such a wide range of types, and wintering is so prolonged that some trees are bound to suffer severely. It is uneconomic to make repeated sulphur applications to fields in which most of the trees have successfully passed the danger period in order to prevent severe damage on 20 per cent. or less of those that winter late. Polyclone blocks should, therefore, be avoided; the greater part of each estate should be planted with one or two clones in monoclonal blocks. Dusting will then be required for large areas all in the same stage of refoliation, and will entail a minimum of trouble and expense. Other things being equal, there is clearly much advantage in choosing early-wintering clones for planting. In this respect the high-yielding clone P.B. 6/9 is likely to suffer severely under Ceylon conditions from its very late wintering and its liability to severe attack by *O. heveae*, which may outweigh any advantage of yield capacity. With a market completely dominated by outside sources of supply, it has become imperative for Ceylon growers to concentrate on low costs of production.

QUASTEL (J. H.), HEWITT (E. J.), & NICHOLAS (D. J. D.). **The control of manganese deficiency in soils. 1. The effects of sulphur and thiosulphates on crops growing on manganese deficient soils.**—*J. agric. Sci.*, xxxviii, 3, pp. 315-322, 1948.

Experiments were carried out to determine the effect of thiosulphates and sulphur on the incidence of manganese deficiency using manganese-deficient soils.

The addition of sodium or calcium thiosulphate to oat plants growing in a manganese-deficient Cambridgeshire fen soil in boxes resulted in a considerable, but only temporary, reduction of grey speck symptoms and increase of manganese content in the tissues. Beet grown in this soil in clay pots responded to thiosulphate treatments particularly when they were applied to pots painted externally with bitumen paint, or when a thin layer of sand was added to the soil surface. The manganese deficiency symptoms were reduced and the manganese uptake of the plants increased.

In field experiments also the addition of thiosulphates to old market garden soil in the Bristol area deficient in manganese increased the manganese content of beet.

Placement treatments were more effective than broadcast ones and markedly improved the growth and reduced or eliminated manganese deficiency symptoms without altering the soil pH. Broadcast dressings of thiosulphates severely injured peas, but even so increased the soluble manganese content of the tissues. Placement applications of sulphur had a beneficial effect on the growth of beet in manganese-deficient soil and increased the manganese content of both beet and pea. Manganese deficiency symptoms in beet were greatly reduced and soil pH was also considerably lowered.

The results of these preliminary tests indicate that the placement of sulphur and sulphur-containing compounds present considerable possibilities for the control of manganese deficiency for some crops.

ISAAC (I.) & KEYWORTH (W. G.). *Verticillium wilt of the Hop (*Humulus lupulus*)*.

III. A study of the pathogenicity of isolates from fluctuating and from progressive outbreaks.—*Ann. appl. Biol.*, xxxv, 2, pp. 243–249, 1 pl., 1948.

In further investigations into *Verticillium* wilt of hops (*V. albo-atrum*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 160, 296] a study was made of the pathogenicity of isolates of the fungus from outbreaks of both the progressive and the fluctuating forms of the disease [cf. *ibid.*, xviii, p. 709]. Two preliminary experiments were made in 1944, using naturally infected stems collected the previous autumn from three gardens with progressive and three with fluctuating wilt. The stems were chopped into 1-in. lengths and stored in dry conditions during the winter. One experiment was carried out on sandy loam at East Malling and the other on heavy silt loam at Beltring, near Paddock Wood. Twenty Fuggle plants were grown in soil to which 10 gm. of one of the six types of stem had been added, with 40 similar plants in uninoculated soil. Wilt symptoms appeared in June, the evidence indicating that the addition to the soil of stems from progressive outbreaks caused severe wilt in 89 plants in both localities, while stems from fluctuating outbreaks caused mainly mild symptoms. Also, there were more plants severely wilted or wilted (as compared with those with mild wilt and apparently unaffected) at Beltring than at East Malling, but the same differences between the treatments were apparent at both centres. All the uninoculated plants remained healthy.

In 1945 the types of soil inoculum used were (a) naturally infected stems, (b) cultures of the fungus on sterilized hop stems grown from portions of naturally infected stems, and (c) similar cultures from previously isolated and identified agar cultures. All three types were made from two progressive and two fluctuating outbreaks. Fresh sites were selected in the 1944 fields. The results obtained both at East Malling and Beltring indicated that almost all the inoculated plants became infected, that almost all those inoculated with strains of the fungus from progressive outbreaks showed severe wilt, while most of those inoculated with strains from fluctuating outbreaks showed little or no wilt, and, finally, that the type of inoculum used did not affect the intensity of symptoms produced by any strain.

In June, 1944, Fuggle hops at East Malling and Beltring, planted the previous March, were inoculated with *V. albo-atrum* from fluctuating and progressive outbreaks (a) by inserting a portion of agar culture into a scalpel wound in the stem at ground level and covering the base of the plant with soil, and (b) by injecting about 0.5 c.c. concentrated spore suspension into a stem at a distance of 3 ft. from the ground. Though many of the inoculated plants became infected and developed brown wood [*loc. cit.*], no severe wilt appeared, and there was thus no differentiation between the fluctuating and progressive strains. A further experiment was made in 1945 on the same lines but using portions of naturally infected stem and spores from such stems as inoculum, as well as agar cultures and their spores. The results in this instance showed that while there was slightly more wilt in the plants

inoculated with the progressive strain than in those inoculated with the fluctuating strain, the differences were not comparable with those resulting from soil inoculation.

In 1946 at East Malling groups of four plants were inoculated, two with progressive and two with fluctuating strains of the fungus, by introducing portions of pure cultures on hop bine, or spores from such cultures, into the roots and stem bases of Fuggle hop sets before planting in March. All the treatments gave a high proportion of infected plants (as indicated by the brown wood test), but no marked differences in incidence were noted as between root and stem or wound and injection inoculations. Of 32 plants inoculated with progressive strains 29 became infected; of these 17 were severely wilted, two showed some wilt, and seven were mildly affected. The corresponding figures for the same number of plants inoculated with fluctuating strains, were 29, none, 1, and 19.

It is evident that the fluctuating strains used as inoculum throughout the work were less pathogenic strains. It would appear to be a valid assumption that the chief distinction between the two types of outbreak in established gardens lies in the strain of *V. albo-atrum* involved. Soil factors may, perhaps, be partly responsible for differences in the severity of outbreaks, and possibly further strains of *V. albo-atrum* may exist.

SREENIVASAYA (M.). **The spike disease of Sandal.**—*Curr. Sci.*, xvii, 5, pp. 141–145, 1948.

Most of the work mentioned in this condensed survey of the present state of research on spike disease of sandal [*R.A.M.*, xx, p. 133; xxii, pp. 276, 371] have already been noticed in this *Review* but the following points may be mentioned. Sandal possesses (1) an autogenic resistance, which is largely independent of the nature of the host, many sandal strains remaining healthy in severely infected areas, and (2) an acquired resistance, exhibited when specific hosts are provided under certain environmental conditions, incidence and spread being dependent upon the floristic composition of the area. Based on these facts two areas have been established in North Salem, using resistant sandal strains, reinforced by hosts which impart relative immunity to sandal [*ibid.*, xiv, p. 478]. Some additional hosts with similar properties are *Cassia siamea*, *Casuarina*, *Melia indica*, *Dodonea viscosa* [*ibid.*, xi, p. 382], *Semicarpus anacardium*, *Ficus bengalensis*, *Sarcostemma brevistigma*, and *Ruta graveolens*. On the other hand, in addition to hosts already noticed [*loc. cit.*], pigeon pea, *Pongamia glabra*, *Divi divi*, and *Ocimum sanctum* render sandal particularly susceptible to the disease. At Javalgiri grafting experiments under silvicultural conditions resulted in 80 per cent. infection, while in another area similar operations completely failed. This discrepancy is explained by the different floristic composition of the two areas.

In pot culture studies sandal-host combinations growing in large pots were more resistant than those in small ones. Deep-rooted hosts are beneficial to sandal and generally impart immunity from spike. When parasitism is severe, however, sandal restricts the regeneration of the host's root system and this should be strictly avoided by judicious thinning. Pot culture studies also showed that sandal succumbs to the disease more quickly when deprived of the host, and all the host resources in sandal-growing areas should therefore be conserved. Sandal plants kept continuously under shade are more susceptible than those exposed to the sun. Actual infection with sandal spike occurs during April and May, when scars and other injuries, the agents of which are still undetermined, are severely inflicted.

Effective artificial transmissions through haustoria [*ibid.*, ii, p. 380] did not exceed 8 per cent., and the spread of the disease under silvicultural conditions appears to be negligible. Protection against fire and prompt weeding of all species showing symptoms of spike disease are also recommended.

STEVENSON (E. C.). **Results of seed-treatment tests with Castor Bean.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 7, pp. 295–298, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

All the fungicides used at Beltsville, Maryland, as seed treatments for castor beans [*Ricinus communis*: *R.A.M.*, xxiv, p. 248] from 1943 to 1947 increased emergence when used at 2 oz. per bush., arasan [loc. cit.], ceresan M, and dow 9 being especially outstanding.

The yield data taken showed that seed treatment had no effect on the yield when the stands were comparable; increases occurred only when the differences in stand, as a result of treatment, were great. Since poor stands are very common in castor bean plantings, annual seed treatments are advisable.

PRESTON (D. A.). **Host index of Oklahoma plant diseases, supplement, 1948.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 9, pp. 398–424, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

This host index gives the available information on the occurrence and distribution of 39 additional plant diseases recorded in Oklahoma [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 75; xxvii, p. 248.]

VIENNOT-BOURGIN (G.). **Les charbons et les rouilles des Îles Atlantiques. I. Les Ustilaginales des Îles Atlantiques.** [The smuts and rusts of the Atlantic Islands. I. The Ustilaginales of the Atlantic Islands.]—*Mém. Soc. Biogéogr.*, viii (Contribution à l'Étude du Peuplement des Îles Atlantides), pp. 437–441, 1946. [Received September, 1948.]

After a brief note on the geography, climate, and vegetation of the Madeira Islands, the author lists some of the more important Ustilaginales found locally. In addition to some already noticed [*R.A.M.*, xix, p. 365], these include *Sphacelotheca andropogonis* [cf. *ibid.*, xviii, p. 11] on *Andropogon hirtus*.

GUYOT (A. L.) & VIENNOT-BOURGIN (G.). **II. Les Uredinales des Îles Atlantiques.** [II. The Uredinales of the Atlantic Islands.]—*Mém. Soc. Biogéogr.*, viii (Contribution à l'Étude du Peuplement des Îles Atlantides), pp. 443–446, 3 figs., 1946. [Received September, 1948.]

The Uredinales found in the Madeira and Canary Islands include, in addition to those already noted [*R.A.M.*, xix, p. 365], *Uromyces betae* [? on beet].

COSTA (A. S.). **Mancha aureolada e requeima das folhas do Fumo causadas por Corticium solani.** [Halo spot and leaf scorch of Tobacco caused by *Corticium solani*.]—*Biológico*, xiv, 5, pp. 113–114, 1 pl., 1948.

A foliar disease of tobacco seedlings caused by *Corticium solani* in São Paulo, Brazil, was described by the author and Amaral in *Rev. Agric. Piracicaba*, xiv, pp. 389–397, 1939 [cf. *R.A.M.*, xxi, p. 246]. In 1941, older plants growing in frames for the observation of virus diseases were attacked by the same fungus, which produced on the foliage large, areolate, coalescent lesions. Infection proceeded from the base upwards, gradually involving nearly all the leaves; the older lower ones remained hanging from the stem.

The strain of *C. solani* responsible for the leaf scorch does not appear to differ significantly from *C. aureolatum*, described by Stahel as the agent of areolate leaf spot of citrus [*ibid.*, xix, p. 240], but the results of preliminary inoculation experiments with the former organism on oranges were negative.

TISDALE (W. B.). **Pepper downy mildew in Florida.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 4, p. 130, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

At the beginning of March [chilli] pepper plants in Florida planted some distance away from tobacco beds were found to be affected by a downy mildew apparently

identical with *Peronospora tabacina* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 163, 175]. Conidiophores were abundant on some leaves and a few plants were completely killed. The author states that in previous years chilli plants were observed to remain quite healthy in beds of tobacco killed by blue mould.

HOROWITZ (B.), CROLL (R. D.), & BELL (T. C.). **Nicotiana rustica as an Australian field crop.**—*J. Aust. Inst. agric. Sci.*, xiv, 2, pp. 61–70, 5 figs., 1948.

Research at the University of Sydney having demonstrated that *Nicotiana rustica* is the most desirable source of nicotine with a high yield of alkaloid per acre, the Australian Department of Commerce and Agriculture requested a private firm to undertake large-scale field production and the manufacture of nicotine sulphate. A major campaign was begun in 1946 with a large acreage in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

The season 1946–7 was excellent for tobacco and *N. rustica*, but in 1947–8 the Ovens Valley experienced an exceptionally severe epidemic of blue mould [*Peronospora tabacina*: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 48, 163, 175], and though far less damage was caused to *N. rustica* than to tobacco, the yield was considerably reduced.

HORSFALL (J. G.). **An unusual occurrence of Tomato blossom-end rot.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 8, p. 351, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

In July, [? 1948], the author observed an unusual case of blossom-end rot [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 479; xxvi, p. 136] on tomatoes growing in very humid soil and under cool conditions in a field of Earliana. The disorder was induced after a short hot spell with drying winds, and it appears that the roots had not been forced to extend themselves because of the high moisture content of the soil.

CHAMBERLAIN (E. E.). **Tomato streak.**—*Bull. N.Z. Dep. sci. industr. Res.* 281, 11 pp., 5 figs., 1947.

Streak, which produces severe streaking of tomato leaves, stems, and fruit, and a less obvious mosaic mottling of the foliage in New Zealand is caused by a strain of tobacco mosaic virus [*R.A.M.*, xx, p. 502; xxvi, p. 425]. It can also infect tobacco, chilli, pepper, eggplant, *Physalis peruviana*, and *Solanum nigrum*, of which the last two are most likely to be of significance in spreading the disease. Small-scale trials have shown that the disease is carried in the testas of uncleaned seed. Three plants out of 600 raised from seed from infected plants developed infection. Of 357 plants grown from seed cleaned by adding 1 oz. concentrated hydrochloric acid per 6 lb. of fruit pulp, allowing to stand for two hours, and washing in water to remove the gelatinous seed-coats before drying, none developed streak. The disease can also be introduced through the use of contaminated soil in seed- or seedling-boxes. This can be remedied by steam disinfection or by using soil not planted with susceptible hosts for at least two years. The viruses of both streak and tomato mosaic [tobacco mosaic virus] are carried over in the soil either in plant débris or in the free state, leaching out from the roots and stems of infected crops. Recommendations are given for general hygiene to prevent infection through handling and to minimize infection in plantings which are already diseased. The planting of healthy seed away from other hosts of the viruses, the removal of diseased plants from the crop, and the destruction of plant débris at the end of the season should serve to keep down the disease as much as possible.

SUTTON (W. S.). **Early blight or target spot of Tomatoes.**—*Agric. Gaz. N.S.W.*, lix, 6, pp. 297–300, 6 figs., 1948.

Early blight (*Alternaria solani*) is the most serious tomato disease in the coastal and some inland areas of New South Wales [*R.A.M.*, xxi, p. 309; xxiv, p. 252] during autumn months. In addition it is commonly found on potatoes, eggplants,

and many common weeds, including nightshade (*Solanum* spp.). A brief description is given of the symptoms of the disease on seedlings and stems and leaves on plants in the field. The fungus is incapable of attacking the fruit except in the region immediately adjacent the fruit stalk scar. From the point of attack the fungus penetrates deeply into the fruit as a rounded black mass, causing an external depression resembling the imprint of a thumb in shape and size. Control measures, most of which have already been noticed in this *Review* [*ibid.*, xxvi, pp. 425, 472; xxvii, p. 174], include seed treatment with hot water at 122° F. for 25 minutes [*ibid.*, xxiii, p. 371] and dusting of the seed with cuprox, oxycop, soltosan, agrosan, ceresan, or semesan; selection of soil virgin to tomatoes for the seed-bed; thin planting and prompt weeding; spraying of seedlings with Bordeaux mixture 2-2-40 as soon as the first true leaves have formed and then at weekly intervals, followed by a Bordeaux spray (1-1-40) a day or two after transplanting and then at 10-day intervals; rotation of at least two years; and crop sanitation.

BROCK (R. D.). **The nature of *Fusarium* wilt resistance in the Tomato variety Pan America.**—*J. Aust. Inst. agric. Sci.*, xiv, 2, pp. 78-80, 1948.

Observations on Pan America tomato plants inoculated with *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici* [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 454] showed that vascular browning can occur in the roots of plants which do not wilt. The fungus can be reisolated from apparently healthy roots and those with vascular browning. Isolations from the roots of a Pan America hybrid showing field immunity also yielded the organism. Vascular browning did not extend into the above-ground portion of these plants, and attempted reisolations from the stems were unsuccessful. Pathogenicity tests with these isolates demonstrated that they were of the same order of pathogenicity as the strain used for glasshouse inoculations, i.e., the highly pathogenic strain used by Mills and Hutton [*loc. cit.*]. Hence, though the normal pathogenic strain can effect entry into the roots of the field-immune tomato plant, its growth and ability to cause wilting are checked, a state of equilibrium being reached, apparently, between the plant and the pathogen.

Pan America plants inoculated with *F. bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici* were inoculated, 13 days later, with the tomato spotted wilt virus or potato virus X. Of 32 plants inoculated with *F. bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici* only, 19 had no vascular browning, 11 showed vascular browning of the root area, and in two, classed later as susceptible, it extended only to the cotyledons, these two plants showing no external wilt symptoms 28 days after inoculation. Of 46 plants inoculated with *F. bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici* and tomato spotted wilt, all showed vascular browning; 30, classed as resistant, showed vascular browning of the root area, while in the remainder (susceptible) it extended into the stems. Of 41 plants inoculated with fungus and potato virus X, 38 were resistant and 3 susceptible. The evidence indicates that Pan America is resistant because it is able to check the growth of the pathogen rather than prevent entry or confine the fungus to the root system. The addition of the tomato spotted wilt virus reduces host resistance, with the result that the fungus spreads to the above-ground parts of the plant. This effect was less marked with potato virus X.

ROLAND (G.). **Les virus des taches bronzées de la Tomate (*Lycopersicum* virus 3, Brittlebank) et de la mosaïque du Concombre (*Cucumis* virus 1, Doolittle) sur Dahlia.** [The viruses of Tomato spotted wilt (*Lycopersicum* virus 3, Brittlebank) and Cucumber mosaic (*Cucumis* virus 1, Doolittle) on Dahlia.]—*Parasitica*, iv, 2, pp. 98-102, 7 figs., 1948. [Flemish summary.]

The author briefly describes the symptoms observed on different dahlia varieties grown in the open in Belgium in 1947 and naturally infected with the tomato spotted wilt virus or cucumber mosaic [*cf. R.A.M.*, xxvii, pp. 187, 421], the

viruses being identified by inoculation tests. The ring spots and zigzag lines observed on the leaves of certain varieties would appear to be attributable to the tomato spotted wilt virus, but other varieties, although infected by this virus, did not have characteristic symptoms. The symptoms also varied with the period when the observations were made, while in some instances they disappeared at the end of the summer. It would appear that cucumber mosaic virus can remain in the latent state in infected dahlias.

The author concludes from these observations that the symptomatology of dahlia virus diseases is highly complex, and becomes even more so when the different strains of each virus are taken into consideration. In view of this, and of the frequent occurrence of latency, no strict selection of healthy dahlias is possible without laboratory confirmation.

SIBILIA (C.). **Le virosi nelle specie forestali.** [Virus diseases of forest trees.]—Reprinted from *Ital. for. mont.*, ii, 2, 8 pp., 1947.

The author briefly reviews and discusses a number of records in the literature of virus diseases affecting forest trees in Italy and elsewhere. Much of the information given has already been noticed from other sources [cf. *R.A.M.*, xii, p. 405; xvii, p. 543; xxiii, p. 244, *et passim*].

PAVARI (A.). **La lotta contro un nuovo flagello dei nostri castagneti (*Endothia parasitica*).** [The control of a new scourge of our Chestnut groves (*Endothia parasitica*).]—Reprinted from *Atti Accad. Georgof. Firenze*, 19 pp., 1 map, 1947.

After noting the rapid spread of chestnut blight (*Endothia parasitica*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 265] in Italy since 1938 the author reviews and discusses in relation to the problem of control the data obtained by him in recent visits to the United States and Spain. In America, the view is taken that the Asiatic chestnuts *Castanea mollissima* and *C. crenata* [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 15; xxvi, p. 176] should be grown experimentally under good conditions to ascertain if good results are obtainable from them. American workers consider that the best means of control lies in developing Asiatic \times American hybrids which combine the timber qualities of the American chestnut varieties with the disease resistance of the Asiatic. The early hybrids made in 1909 in the United States between the American varieties *C. dentata* and *C. pumila* and the Asiatic varieties *C. mollissima*, *C. seguinii*, and *C. crenata* were nearly all dead by 1937. Further hybrids made in 1939 [*ibid.*, xxiii, p. 320] from *C. hozarkensis*, *C. floridana*, *C. alabamensis*, *C. ashei*, and other species crossed with *C. mollissima* and *C. crenata* almost all showed insufficient resistance, though better resistance was displayed by hybrids obtained by using the Asiatic species as pollen parents than by hybrids of different origin. Back-crossing to the Asiatic parents has thus given hybrids combining very good resistance with other desirable qualities. Still further crossing is considered necessary to obtain hybrids with more reliable resistance.

It is considered that in Italy curative measures might still, if attempted, give good results. It is possible that some varieties, clones, or individuals of *C. sativa* resistant to the disease may be found in Italy. Many types of *C. mollissima* found unsuitable in the United States as timber might prove very suitable in Italy for fruit production. Hybridization should at once be undertaken on the largest possible scale in Italy and every effort should be made to introduce *C. mollissima* in the pure state, as it offers the best guarantee of immunity. The importation for experimental growing on a large scale of this species, hitherto not grown in Italy, has now begun.

A programme for control in Italy is put forward. Curative methods are being carried out, using various fungicides, especially copper and iron salts. Tests with chemical fertilizers are also in progress. In the search for resistant strains of *C.*

sativa over 120 varieties of this species have been planted in a nursery in the province of Genoa for experimental inoculations. Similar work will, it is hoped, be carried out in central and southern Italy.

In northern Spain, where large plantings of Asiatic chestnuts are being grown experimentally, the author found *E. parasitica* (or a fungus apparently identical with it) on almost every individual of the Shiba and Tamba varieties of *C. crenata*. The fungus was not, however, observed on indigenous chestnuts growing in the immediate vicinity of the affected trees, with the exception of one tree which had been attacked at the base, but had reacted vigorously with callus formation and seemed perfectly healthy. The Japanese trees had been affected for at least 15 to 20 years, and the disease was still progressing on them.

The only Asiatic chestnut that has been grown in Italy for any length of time is *C. crenata* and its resistance has been found very unreliable. *C. mollissima*, however, shows almost complete resistance, is much prized for its fruit, and appears to be better adapted to Italian ecological conditions. The author observed large plantings of the Korean chestnut (probably nearer to *C. mollissima* than to *C. crenata*) in Spain which were perfectly healthy though growing in close proximity to affected Japanese chestnuts. Hybridization work between *C. mollissima* and *C. sativa* and *C. crenata* has been started.

TREGGI (G.). **Il 'cancro della corteccia del Castagno' nell' Appennino Pistoiese.** [Chestnut bark canker in the Pistoja region of the Apennines.]—*Ann. Fac. agr. Pisa*, N.S., viii, pp. 254–257, 2 figs., 1947.

During 1944 chestnut bark canker (*Endothia parasitica*) [see preceding abstract] was reported for the first time from the Pistoja region of the Apennines, one of the most important chestnut-growing areas in Italy. In 1945 about 30 per cent. of the chestnut trees in the commune of Cutigliano were affected, while spread had continued in many directions. At Le Cane, where the first infection was found in 1944, four to five hectares of chestnuts were completely destroyed by the disease in 1945. By 1947 the disease had spread over the whole commune of Cutigliano and a great part of several others in the vicinity, comprising an area of about 3,500 hectares. Infection reaches 60 to 70 per cent. and mortality averages 45 per cent.

Poplar planting.—*Leaflet. For. Comm., Lond.*, 27, 14 pp., 7 figs., 1948.

In this pamphlet on poplar cultivation in Great Britain it is stated that among the diseases of poplars bacterial canker [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, p. 221], caused by several bacteria acting together, is the most destructive and can only be prevented by the use of resistant varieties such as *Populus nigra italica*, *P. n. plantierensis*, *P. gelrica*, and *P. robusta*. Die-back, usually associated with *Dothichiza populea* [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 586; xxvi, p. 431], is less serious but quite common on fastigate types. *Cytospora chrysosperma* [*ibid.*, xxi, p. 99] is non-pathogenic and occurs frequently on dead poplar wood. Rust (*Melampsora* spp.) [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 145] varies in severity from year to year, but is never sufficiently severe to bar cultivation except of very susceptible types such as *P. generosa*.

MILLER (P. W.). **Further investigations on the control of Walnut blight by dusting.**—Reprinted from *Proc. Ore. St. hort. Soc.*, xxxix, pp. 114–115, 1947.

The results of further tests for the control of walnut blight [*Xanthomonas juglandis*: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 104] in Oregon in 1947 showed that six applications in a Franquette orchard with the following dusts: copper+lime+oil (20–40–1·5), copper+lime+sulphur+boric acid+oil (20–43·5–10–25–1·5), and yellow cuprous oxide+sulphur (6–15) at approximately weekly intervals beginning in the early pre-blossom stage, reduced the incidence of the disease from 36·2 per cent. to 3·5, 5, and 5·1 per cent., respectively. Under the same conditions four applications of the

first dust only reduced the incidence to 28.2 per cent. Most growers who had made five or more applications obtained good to excellent control. For example, five applications of a copper+lime+sulphur+oil (20-40-10-1.5) dust, timed similarly, reduced the number of infected nuts from 41.1 to 2.6 per cent., four applications reducing it to only 17.4 per cent.

Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Forestry Commissioners for the year ending September 30th, 1947.—68 pp., 11 maps, 1948.

On p. 39 of this report it is stated that the results of investigations into the death of pines in East Anglia associated with *Fomes annosus* [*R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 482] obtained so far indicated that infection occurs mainly through root contact and that the stumps of trees removed in early cleanings constitute a serious source of infection. The disease tends to be aggravated by alkaline soils.

Other maladies studied during the year included the dying back of pines on calcareous soils, *Phaeocryptopus gaeumannii* on Douglas fir [*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*], and *Keithia* [*Didymascella thujina*: *ibid.*, xxvi, p. 222; xxvii, p. 463] which seriously damages nursery plants of western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). A survey of [Dutch] elm disease [*Ceratostomella ulmi*: *ibid.*, xviii, p. 640; xxi, p. 440] revealed an unexpected spread northwards over the Scottish border. Hitherto no major outbreaks north of a line from Chester to York had been discovered.

WALLACE (G. B.). **Bacterial soft rot of vegetables.**—*E. Afr. agric. J.*, xiv, 1, pp. 34-35, 3 figs., 1948.

Soft rot caused by *Bacterium carotovorum* [*Erwinia carotovora*] has been observed in the Northern and Southern Highlands Provinces of Tanganyika Territory in turnip (losses up to 20 per cent.), carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery. Information is given to growers on the incidence, host range, symptoms, and control [*R.A.M.*, xix, p. 58; xxii, p. 343; xxiv, p. 304].

LEYENDECKER (P. J.). **The occurrence of Cabbage yellows in Southern New Mexico.**—*Plant Dis. Repr.*, xxxii, 8, p. 346, 1948. [Mimeographed.]

Fusarium oxysporum f. *conglutinans* [*F. conglutinans*: *R.A.M.*, xxv, p. 148] was isolated from several diseased cabbage plants in New Mexico, the original field in the southern part of the country revealing 5 to 10 per cent. of infection. This is the first record of the incidence of cabbage yellows in this area.

HENDERSON (R. F.). **Vegetable seed certification and approval schemes. List of growers for 1947-48 season.**—*J. Dep. Agric. Vict.*, xlvi, 7, pp. 301-302, 1948.

Lists are given of the growers of certified seed of French bean [*Phaseolus vulgaris*] and approved pea and tomato seed for the 1947-48 season in Victoria. The five bean seed crops grown in East Gippsland which reached the required standard showed no evidence of halo blight (*Pseudomonas medicaginis* var. *phaseolicola*) [*R.A.M.*, xxvi, pp. 372, 373], *Xanthomonas phaseoli* [loc. cit.], or anthracnose (*Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*) during inspection and contained no more than 5 per cent. bean mosaic [*ibid.*, xxv, p. 22] after the first inspection. Approximately 700 bushels of certified Brown Beauty will be available for growers for sowing in East Gippsland in the coming season. It is hoped that sufficient stocks of certified seed of all commonly grown varieties will eventually be available for distribution.

The approved pea seed crops from approved parent seed of long satisfactory history showed no trace of bacterial blight (*Pseudomonas pisi*) [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 1] or *Septoria pisi* [loc. cit.] and were reasonably free from *Ascochyta* blight (*Mycosphaerella pinodes*, *A. pisi*, and *A. pinodella*) [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 330; xxvii, p. 169]. Approved Greenfeast seed is giving very satisfactory results in many districts both for canning and green peas.

Approved crops of Burwood Wonder, Tatinter, and Victorian Dwarf tomatoes showed no evidence of bacterial canker (*Phytophthora michiganensis*) [*Corynebacterium michiganense*: *ibid.*, xxvi, p. 136] during the growing period, and were also reasonably free from all other diseases. As an additional precaution all approved tomato seed should be submitted to the Department for hot water treatment before sowing.

SEVERIN (H. H. P.). **Transmission of California Aster-yellows virus by leafhopper species in *Thamnotettix* group.**—*Hilgardia*, xviii, 4, pp. 203–216, 1 col. pl. 1948.

The leafhoppers *Colladonus montanus* and *Friscaurus ruginatus* var. *brunneus* in the *Thamnotettix* group have been determined as vectors of California aster yellows virus in addition to those already reported [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 353]. Celery was infected to the extent of 11 per cent. and 23 per cent., respectively, but asters were not. The number of leafhoppers and the period of exposure to healthy plants have an important effect on the transmission.

The minimum latent period in *C. geminatus* males ranged from 11 to 36 days and in *C. montanus* males from 8 to 40 days.

One male *Idiocerus leidiomanni* retained the virus for 11 days after producing the initial infection and one female of *C. comissus* retained it for six days producing three infections. Usually, however, adults caused only the initial infection.

PARRIS (G. K.). **Further observations on the inheritance of resistance to *Fusarium* wilt in Watermelon.**—*Plant Dis. Rept.*, xxxii, 9, pp. 378–379, 1948. [Mimeo-graphed.]

The results of breeding experiments carried out during the last three years at Leesburg, Florida, confirm previous findings [*R.A.M.*, xxi, p. 362] that the F_1 progeny from crosses between watermelon varieties susceptible to *Fusarium* wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* [*F. bulbigenum*] var. *niveum*) [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 405] and resistant ones are not always susceptible to the disease. The survival rates of F_1 progeny from the crosses Hawkesbury \times Cletex, Blacklee \times Cletex, Flaming Delicious \times Black Kleckley, and Cannon Ball \times Black Kleckley, grown on heavily infested soil were 96, 85, 54, and 0 per cent., respectively. In two instances the survival rates of the F_2 was obtained (55 and 51 per cent.) but the method of inheritance remains undetermined.

LINNASALMI (ANNIKKI). **On the control of Cucumber scab (*Cladosporium cucumerinum* Ell. & Arth.).**—*Maataloust. Aikakausk.*, xix, pp. 124–128, 1947.

In tests conducted in 1936 and 1945–7 to control cucumber scab [gummosis (*Cladosporium cucumerinum*)] [*R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 309] in Finland, where it is the most destructive disease of outdoor cucumbers, among the various fungicides tested only copper-lime sprays and sulphur dusts were effective, and these only slightly so.

ATKINS (F. C.). **Major diseases of the cultivated White Mushroom.**—9 pp., 14 figs. Midlands Group Publications, Yaxley, Peterborough, 1948. 2s. 6d.

This paper, designed primarily for growers, contains useful information on the major diseases of the cultivated white mushroom [*Psalliota* sp.]. The four sections deal, respectively, with bacterial pit (*Pseudomonas fluorescens*) [*Pseudomonas tolaasii*: *R.A.M.*, xxvii, p. 111], and the diseases caused by *Dactylium dendroides* [*ibid.*, xxvi, p. 437; and above, p. 552], *Mycogone perniciosa* [*ibid.*, xxvi, pp. 437], and *Verticillium psalliotae* and *V. dahliae* [*ibid.*, xxvii, p. 110]. Brief notes are given on common names, symptoms, sources of infection, prevention, control and scientific description of the pathogens.

INDEX OF AUTHORS

	PAGES		PAGES
Aberdeen, J. E. C.	391, 399	Behr, L.	309
Abiusso, N. C.	434	Beijer, J. J.	72
Abrams, E.	251	Bell, T. C.	587
Adair, C. R.	335	Benson, N.	511
Afanasiev, M. M.	1, 3, 334, 402	Berger, K. C.	40
Aggéry, B.	236, 258, 396, 570	Berk, S.	147, 436, 546
Ainsworth, G. C.	253, 438	Berkeley, G. H.	187
Akeley, R. V.	34, 37, 334	Bernaux, P.	536
Alcalde, M. B.	386	Bernuth, I. v.	123
Algera, L.	200	Bertelli, J. C.	130
Alibert, H.	557	Bertossi, F.	483
Allday, C.	261	Bertus, L. S.	555
Allington, W. B.	107	Bever, W. M.	227
Allison, J. C.	212	Bhagwagar, P. R.	89
Allmendinger, D. F.	285	Bhat, S. S.	279
Altstatt, G. E.	341, 466	Bigger, J. H.	278
Amstutz, A.	372	Billings, R. W.	104
Andersen, A. L.	232, 494	Binkley, A. M.	169
Anderson, E. J.	142	Biraghi, A.	104, 245, 264, 265
Anderson, H. W.	374, 429	Birkinshaw, J. H.	399
Andraee, W. A.	492	Bisset, K. A.	414
Andrén, F.	421, 428, 442, 456	Bitancourt, A. A.	476
Angell, H. R.	180	Björling, K.	128, 467
Anthony, R. D.	175	Black, L. M.	24, 239, 538
Apostolides, C. A.	69	Black, W.	151, 291, 579
Ark, P. A.	189	Blackie, W. J.	9
Arndt, C. H.	523	Blank, L. M.	523
Arnstein, H. R. V.	483	Bliss, D. E.	430
Army, D. C.	231	Blodgett, E. C.	91
Aronescu-Săvulescu, A.	274	Bloy, J.	247
Arx, A. v.	488	Blumer, S.	369
Asthana, R. P.	18, 61, 134, 358	Bockstahler, H. W.	3, 4
Atkin, L.	47	Bode, O.	123, 272
Atkins, F. C.	109, 216, 405, 552, 592	Boggess, W. R.	51
Atkins, I. M.	468	Böhni, E.	535
Ayers, T. T.	176	Bollen, W. R.	205
Azad, R. N.	578	Boller, A.	488
		Bond, R. C.	126
		Bond, T. E. T.	196, 339
		Bondar, G.	414
Baillot d'Estivaux, L.	553	Bondartzev, A. S.	36, 57
Baker, H. G.	23	Bondartzeva-Monteverde, V. M.	36, 37
Baker, K. F.	239, 346, 475, 476, 477, 566	Bonde, R.	37, 86, 87, 331, 332, 493, 494
Balakrishnan, M. S.	159, 172, 572	Bongini, V.	481
Bald, J. G.	37, 192, 193	Böning, K.	123
Baldacci, E.	375, 484	Bontea, V.	274, 387, 399
Ballu, T.	287	Booij, H. L.	110
Baltazar, C. R.	133	Borchers, R.	252
Bamberg, R. H.	12	Borg, J.	208
Bardin, R.	108	Borlaug, N. E.	277
Barghoorn, E. S.	82	Bortels, H.	123
Baribeau, B.	537	Borzini, G.	484
Barnett, H. L.	405, 440	Bosher, J. E.	281, 282
Barrett, J. T.	297	Botjes, J. O.	491
Barry, J. P.	536	Bottomley, A. M.	498
Bartholomew, E. T.	521	Boudru, M.	205, 396, 546
Bartz, Q. R.	146, 535	Boughey, A. S.	183, 184, 190
Baruah, H. K.	294	Bouhelier, R.	319
Basu, S. N.	378, 487	Bouriquet, G.	9, 79
Batallanez, R. H.	420	Bouthilet, R.	46
Bates, G. R.	199	Bovay, E.	274
Batisse, E. M.	172	Boyce, A. M.	132
Batista, A. C.	77, 134, 185, 320	Boyd, A. E. W.	292
Bayden, F. C.	22, 332, 490, 491, 536	Boyd, O. C.	425
Baxter, D. V.	166, 167, 206	Boyle, J. J.	41
Bayley, C. H.	377	Branas, J.	310
Bazán de Segura, C.	327	Braun, A. C.	276
Beale, H. P.	202	Braun, A. J.	509
Bean, J. L.	90	Braun, W.	10
Beaumont, A.	88	Breakey, E. P.	512
Beeley, F.	336		

	PAGES		PAGES
Bredemann, G.	124	Chowdhury, S.	94, 95, 245, 521
Bremer, H.	114, 349, 423	Christensen, C. M.	146, 147, 418
Brentzel, W. E.	558	Christie, J. R.	2
Brett, C. C.	127	Christoff [Khristov], A.	27, 3
Bretz, T. W.	341	Chupp, C.	402, 403
Brewbaker, H. E.	2	Cialzeta, C.	6
Brian, P. W.	83, 145, 440	Cibes, H. R.	257
Brien, R. M.	84	Ciccarone, A.	68, 48
Brierley, P.	364	Ciferri, R.	375, 48
Broadfoot, J.	152	Clarke, N. A.	22
Broadfoot, W. C.	16	Clarke, W. S.	17
Brock, R. D.	588	Clayton, C. N.	347, 52
Bronson, T. E.	87	Clayton, E. E.	47, 264, 39
Brooks, A. N.	53, 125	Clinch, P. E. M.	21
Brooks, F. T.	490	Cochran, G. W.	26
Brown, A. M.	253, 314	Cochrane, V. W.	40
Brown, H. M.	359	Cockerham, G.	5
Brown, W.	193, 490	Coe, D. M.	34
Brun, J.	572	Coêlho, M.	32
Bruni, O.	412	Cohen, S. L.	28
Brunson, A. M.	120	Cole, J. R.	34
Buchholtz, W. F.	12, 481	Colin-Russ, A.	23
Buchwald, N. F.	186, 497, 566	Collins, D. L.	30
Buddin, W.	182	Comeaux, D. J.	17
Buell, C. B.	329	Compton, L. E.	119, 120, 12
Bullock, R. M.	511	Conn, H. J.	66, 22
Bumgardner, R. J.	233	Conner, J. W.	27
Burchfield, H. P.	505	Conners, I. L.	57
Burkholder, C. L.	121, 139	Connola, D. P.	30
Burkholder, P. R.	41, 146	Cook, A. H.	483, 49
Burnett, F.	463	Cook, H. T.	59, 21
Bush, H. L.	2	Cooley, J. S.	137, 32
Buston, H. W.	487	Coons, G. H.	1
Butler, F. C.	316, 559	Cooper, W. E.	29
Buzzati-Traverso, A.	375	Cordon, T. C.	14
		Cormack, M. W.	324, 51
		Corner, E. J. H.	24
Cadman, C. H.	141	Cosslett, V. E.	30
Calam, C. T.	489	Costa, A. S.	58
Calavan, E. C.	129, 183, 232, 470	Costa Neto, J. P. da	12
Caldwell, R. M.	119, 120, 128, 356	Couceiro, E. M.	12
Callbeck, L. C.	194, 581		
Cameron, D. S.	389	Cox, C. E.	1
Camici, L.	504, 551	Cox, R. S.	306, 56
Camp, W. H.	497	Cox, S. F.	48
Campbell, J. C.	85	Crall, J. M.	44
Campbell, L.	430, 485, 511	Cralley, E. M.	381, 46
Capoor, S. P.	309, 549	Crandall, B. S.	164, 255, 327, 340, 54
Cappelletti, C.	331	Critopoulos, P. D.	1
Cardinell, H. A.	569	Crocker, C.	57
Carpenter, J. B.	195	Croll, R. D.	58
Carrante, V.	317	Cronshy, J. F. H.	59, 168, 17
Carrera, C. J. M.	73	Crook, E. M.	57
Cartwright, K. St. G.	52	Crosier, W. F.	57
Cass Smith, W. P.	20, 565, 568	Cross, W. E.	1
Castberg, C.	293	Crowdy, S. H.	179, 24
Castellani, E.	406, 521, 526, 528, 552	Cummings, G. B.	119, 120, 3
Cavill, G. W. K.	143	Cunningham, H. S.	175, 2
Cejp, K.	423	Curtis, P. J.	14
Celino, M. S.	236	Cuzin, J.	4
Cendaña, S. M.	133		
Cerighelli, R.	572	Darby, R. T.	4
Chamberlain, E. E.	587	Darling, H. M.	4
Charles, A. M.	251	Darpoux, H.	356, 383, 529, 531, 5
Chasmukhin, V. Y.	104	Darrow, G. M.	28, 373, 5
Chaudhuri [Chowdhury], S. D.	411	Das, C. R.	2
Chen, S. L.	403	Dastur, J. F.	1
Cherewick, W. J.	315	Davidson, F. E.	1
Chester, K. S.	358, 375	Davidson, R. S.	2
Childers, N. F.	256	Davies, O. L.	3
Chilton, S. J. P.	176, 296, 495	Davis, J. F.	4
Chiu, W. F.	498	Davis, M. B.	5
Choudhri, R. S.	143	Day, L. H.	4

	PAGES		PAGES
Day, W. R.	500	Emilsson, B.	293
Dean, L. L.	118	Englerth, G. H.	547
Debraux, G.	407	Epps, J. M.	S, 523
De Bruyn, H. L. G.	194	Ergle, D. R.	321
De Carvalho, T.	247	Erickson, E. L.	479
Decker, A. E.	133	Esbo, H.	192
Decker, P.	126, 367	Esfandiari, E.	227
Degand, P.	432	Espino, R. C.	421
Delgadomontoya, N.	192	Etchecopar, J. A.	67
Delle Coste, A. C.	389	Ettlinger, L.	488
Demaree, J. B.	28, 245, 285, 373, 481	Evans, H.	156, 386, 542
De Melo, J. L.	347	Evelyn, S. H.	473
De Montgremier, H. A.	149	Evreinoff, V. A.	25
Dennis, R. W. G.	560		
De Phillippis, A.	544	Fabre, R.	432
De Preter, E.	406	Fagan, F. N.	424
De Ropp, R. S.	178, 276, 556	Faivre-Amiot, A.	356
Desflasseux, A.	409	Fang, C. T.	550
De Silva, C. A.	382, 540, 541	Farmer, T. H.	488
Desjardins, P. R.	313	Farrar, M. D.	433
Detroux, L.	414	Fate, L. R.	300
De Urries, M. J.	387	Favard, P.	241
Dexter, R. W.	191	Fawcett, H. S.	129, 132, 361, 470, 519, 520
Dexter, S. T.	325, 575	Feldman, A. W.	372
Dickinson, S.	441	Fellows, H.	228
Dickson, J. G.	136, 144, 240	Felton, M. W.	536
Dillon Weston, W. A. R.	59, 168, 182, 283	Fennell, J. L.	391, 460
Dimock, A. W.	239	Fenner, L. M.	300
Dingley, J. M.	84	Ferraris, T.	375
Dolan, D.	59	Ficheroulle, H.	408
Dominik, T.	535	Fidler, J. C.	568
Doran, W. L.	213	Findlay, W. P. K.	52, 99
Down, E. E.	182, 359	Fischer, G. W.	231, 240, 283, 357
Downie, A. R.	2	Fisher, D. F.	137
Downie, W. A.	491	Fitzpatrick, H. F.	271
Downing, M. H.	258	Flanzy, M.	534
Dowson, W. J.	458	Fleury, C.	273
Doyle, R. J.	304	Flitch, C. L.	86
Drake, R. M.	345	Foister, C. E.	505
Drechsler, C.	159, 420	Folsom, D.	86, 87, 92, 494
Driver, C. M.	291	Fong, R.	108
Drosdoff, M.	42	Foote, M. W.	367, 576
Du Charne, E. P.	307	Forbes, L.	98
Ducker, H. C.	474	Forlani, R.	67
Duckworth, R. B.	377	Forsberg, J. L.	169
Dufrénoy, J.	377	Foster, A. A.	152
Dulac, J.	216	Foster, H. H.	167, 169, 269
Dulaney, E. L.	253	Foster, J. W.	148
Dunegan, J. C.	244, 481, 529, 532	Foster, R. E.	509
Dungan, G. H.	278	Foster, W. R.	354
Dunklee, D. E.	196	Foucault, S.	67
Dunne, T. C.	517	Frandsen, K. J.	365
Dupias, G.	257, 371	Frank, M. C.	489
Du Plessis, S. J.	216	Fraser, J. G. C.	11
Dutky, S. R.	19	Frazier, W. A.	340
Dyer, R. A.	351	Frear, D. E. H.	32, 175, 286
Dykstra, T. P.	332	Freeman, G. G.	437
		Frezzi, M. J.	204
Earnshaw, F.	182	Fricke, E. F.	17
Eastham, A.	127	Fries, N.	379
Eastham, J. W.	354	Fudge, J. F.	534
Eddins, A. H.	152	Fujimoto, C. K.	154
Edwards, G. A.	329	Fulton, J. P.	391
Edwards, R. L.	347	Furry, M. S.	84
Ehrlich, J.	146	Futral, J. G.	171
Eicke, R.	272		
Ekbote, R. B.	315	Gadd, C. H.	70
Ekstrand, H.	416, 518	Galet, P.	348
El-Helaly, A. F.	231, 357	Gallay, R.	62, 436
Ellis, D. E.	506, 524	Ganguly, D.	447
Ellis, N. K.	120, 356	Garcia, F. J.	236
Elrod, R. P.	225, 276		

	PAGES		PAGE
Garcia, L. A. A.	471	Hardenburg, E. V.	493, 54
Garcia Rada, G.	320	Hardison, J. R.	478, 47
Garofalo, F.	68	Harkom, J. F.	34
Garren, K. H.	60, 171	Harlan, J. D.	17
Garrett, S. D.	182, 418	Harris, G. C. M.	37
Gaskill, J. O.	2	Harris, H. C.	6
Gaudineau, M.	425, 429, 507	Harris, M. R.	34, 86, 32
Gaughran, E. R. L.	177	Harris, R. V.	24
Gäumann, E.	240, 453, 488, 490, 535, 575	Harrison, A. L.	49, 16
Gautheret, R. J.	329	Hart, R.	7
Gavaudan, P.	287, 407	Hartigan, D. T.	10
Geddes, W. F.	146, 147	Hartley, C.	5
Gerloff, G. C.	40	Hartman, J. D.	121, 35
Gertz, O.	206	Harvey, C.	57
Getchell, J. S.	494	Harvey, H. L.	20, 565, 56
Giddings, N. J.	235	Hashioka, Y.	255, 377, 443, 444, 445, 446
Gilbert, S. G.	396		447, 45
Giles, J. E.	454	Haslam, R. J.	34
Gilliver, K.	25	Hassan, H. H.	
Gilman, J. C.	17	Hawker, L. E.	331, 47
Gilpatrick, J. D.	316	Hawkes, J. G.	29
Gisquet, P.	299	Hawkins, B. S.	52
Gloyer, W. O.	175	Heberg, B. C.	55
Godoy, E. F.	412	Heim, R.	40
Goidanich, G.	70, 85, 318, 338, 380, 387, 394, 504, 539, 551	Heinton, T. E.	12
Goldsmith, E. V.	373	Heinze, K.	12
Goldsworthy, M. C.	529, 532	Hellmers, E.	58
Good, H. M.	236	Hemming, H. G.	83, 145, 44
Goodman, J. J.	357	Henderson, R. F.	56
Gordon, D. R.	417	Henderson, R. W.	
Gorlenko, M. V.	10	Hendrix, J. W.	307, 340, 42
Goss, O.	568	Henry, A. W.	213, 316, 35
Gould, C. J.	134, 238, 476, 512	Henry, B. S.	8
Graff, P. W.	45	Henry, B. W.	165, 44
Grafius, J. E.	12	Hepting, G. H.	29
Grainger, J.	68	Herren, F.	14
Grasso, V.	415, 560	Hervey, A. H.	23
Gray, J. R.	485	Hervey, G. E. R.	107, 17
Gray, W. D.	83, 253	Hester, J. B.	34
Greene, H. C.	498	Heuberger, J. W.	
Greer, E. E.	170	Hewitt, E. J.	93, 195, 336, 401, 58
Gregory, P. H.	489	Hewitt, J. L.	12
Gries, G. A.	307	Hewitt, W. B.	21
Grossbard, E.	111, 113, 330	Higgins, B. B.	60, 17
Grove, J. F.	440	Hilborn, M. T.	52
Groves, A. B.	74, 284	Hildebrand, A. A.	3
Groves, K.	511	Hildebrand, E. M.	271, 525, 56
Gruenhagen, R. H.	267	Hill, A. R.	14
Guillaume, P.	302	Hill, H.	56
Guiscafre-Arrillaga, J.	471	Hilton, R. J.	12
Gutzevitch, S. A.	52	Hirsch, A.	48
Guyon, G.	424	Hirschhorn, E.	4
Guyot, A. L.	586	Hodges, F. A.	14
Guyot, L.	517	Hodgson, R. W.	3
		Holmes, C. H.	5
H——, J. M.	131	Holmes, F. O.	299, 421, 45
Haas, A. R. C.	520	Holt, B. R.	40
Haenseler, C. M.	359	Holton, C. S.	12, 228, 51
Hagmann, L. E.	301	Hooker, W. J.	29
Haigh, J. C.	579	Hooton, D. R.	52
Hamilton, D. G.	16	Hope, R. H.	32
Hamilton, J.	396	Hopkins, J. C. F.	117, 19
Hamilton, J. M.	173, 174, 510	Hoppe, P. E.	27
Hamner, C. L.	574	Horovitz, N.	6
Hampton, J. E.	276	Horowitz, B.	58
Hänni, H.	442	Horsfall, J. G.	434, 58
Hansbrough, J. R.	50	Hougas, R. W.	48
Hansen, H. N.	324	Hovey, C.	49
Hansen, H. R.	410	Howard, F. L.	43
Hansford, C. G.	382, 540, 582	Hoyle, S. T.	47
Hansing, E. D.	133	Hoymann, W. G.	49
		Hubbeling, N.	47
		Huber, G. A.	22

	PAGES		PAGES
Hudson, P. S.	380	Kipps, E. H.	188
Hughes, C. G.	496	Kirkpatrick, H. C.	493
Hugh Smith, W.	75	Kleczkowski, A.	491, 508
Hulea, A.	274, 415, 423, 443, 458, 468	Klemm, M.	123
Hull, R.	169	Klessner, P. J.	270
Hulpoi, A.	274	Kligman, A. M.	347
Hurd-Karrer, A. M.	127	Klinkowski, M.	123
Husz, B.	139	Klotz, L. J.	233, 471, 483, 520, 561, 562
Hutchinson, W. G.	145	Knight, C. A.	161, 162
Hutton, E. M.	380, 394, 454	Knight, R. L.	280, 474
Hutton, K. E.	27, 246	Knoppien, P.	426
		Knorr, L. C.	38
Ikeda, W.	431	Knowles, P. F.	126
Ilia, M.	67	Knoyle, J. M.	395
Isaac, I.	584	Koblet, R.	153
Isaac, L. A.	105	Koch, L. W.	55
Isaksson, A.	2	Koehler, B.	278
İşmen, H.	114, 349	Köhler, E.	123, 262
Ivanoff, S. S.	8	Kondareff, M.	62
		Koperin, F. I.	301
Jaag, O.	453	Kotila, J. E.	4, 304
Jacobs, S. E.	576	Kovačevski, I. C.	376
Jakob, J. G.	195	Kovache, A.	408
Jamalainen, E. A.	578	Kovachich, W. G.	523
Jardin Freire, J. R.	77	Kozhevnikova, L. M.	226
Jauch, C.	237	Kozłowska, A.	311
Javier Dieguez, C.	542	Kramer, M.	203
Jeffers, W. F.	328, 373, 374	Krantz, F. A.	88
Jenkins, A. E.	32, 155, 476	Kreibohm de la Vega, G. A.	44
Jensen, D. D.	431	Kreitlow, K. W.	367, 567
Jensen, L. B.	489	Kreizinger, E. J.	240
Jensen, N. F.	13	Kreutzer, W. A.	2
Jodon, N. E.	176	Krishnaswamy, M. A.	535
Johansen, G.	443	Kugler, W. F.	67
Johnson, A. G.	324	Kühlwein, J.	303
Johnson, E. M.	264	Kuhnholz-Lordat, M.	498
Johnson, F.	285, 485, 511, 512	Kulkarni, Y. S.	533
Johnson, J.	200	Kumamoto, Y.	380
Johnson, T.	230, 315	Kuntay, S.	423
Jones, E. W.	401	Kuntz, J. E.	58
Jones, P. C. T.	449		
Jones, S. G.	67	Lacey, M. S.	483
Joseph, H. A.	519	Lachavanne, G.	335
Joslyn, D. A.	146	Lackey, C. F.	213
Josserand, M.	33	Lagercrantz, C.	190
Jugenheimer, R. W.	278	Laing, E. V.	501
Junière, P.	369	Landau, N.	74
		Lang, A. L.	278
Kamat, M. N.	43	Langford, A. N.	543
Kanagy, J. R.	251	Lansade, M.	358, 517
Karel, G.	114, 349	Large, E. C.	182
Karling, J. S.	420	Lasser, T.	41
Kassanis, B.	22, 214, 332, 389, 508	Lathrop, F. H.	529
Kauter, A.	479	La Touche, C. J.	216, 347, 405
Keay, M. A.	441	Laufer, M. A.	107
Keitt, G. W.	284, 480	Law, A. G.	240
Kelly, C. D.	248	Laxminarayana, H.	535
Kendrick, J. B.	392, 393	Leach, L. D.	3, 344
Ken Knight, G.	118, 465	Lear, B.	155, 305
Kent, G. C.	13	Leasure, J. K.	359
Kent, W. G.	568	Leaver, W. E.	61
Kertes, Z. I.	453	Le Beau, F. J.	5, 175, 186
Keyworth, W. G.	94, 295, 296, 584	Leben, C.	284, 480
Khristov, A.	399	Lechevalier, H.	300
Kidson, E. B.	369	Lefebvre, C. L.	403
Kiely, T.	562	Lefèvre, P. C.	361
Kikuta, K.	340	Leforge, J. H.	120, 356
Kimbrough, W. D.	176	Leggatt, C. W.	506
King, H. E.	472	Lehman, S. G.	7, 523
King, N. J.	495	Lellis, W. T.	226
		Lemos, O.	67
		Lentz, P. L.	451

	PAGES		PAGES
Letov, A. S.	475	Marloth, R. H.	36
Leukel, R. W.	361, 403, 434	Marsden, A. W.	570
Levy, B. F. G.	242, 243	Marsden, D. H.	50
Lewis, W. E.	51	Marsden, P. S. S. F.	252
Leyendecker, P. J.	591	Marsh, R. W.	370
Libby, W. C.	85	Marshall, R. P.	395, 500
Lihnell, D.	441	Martens, P.	38
Lillja, J. L. W.	209	Martens, P. H.	43
Lilly, V. G.	405, 440	Martin, E. F.	22
Limasset, P.	149, 400	Martin, G. W.	83, 25
Lin, K. H.	368	Martin, J. P.	95, 97, 494, 51
Lincoln, R. E.	225	Martin, W. J.	92, 38
Lindgren, D. L.	430	Martinez, A.	21
Lindgren, R. M.	398	Mason, C. L.	3
Lindner, R. C.	431	Massenot, M.	51
Lindquist, J. C.	45	Matsumoto, T.	82, 162, 200
Ling, L.	159	Matthews, R. E. F.	34
Linn, M. B.	404	Mattson, H.	53
Linnaesalmi, A.	592	Maume, L.	21
Little, D. H.	345	Mayne, W. W.	298, 41
Little, J. E.	367, 576	Mayor, E.	15
Littlejohn, L. J. S.	556	Mazery, G.	15
Littman, M. L.	82	McAlpin, D. M.	320, 41
Litzenberger, S. C.	181	McCalla, T. M.	38
Lo, T. T.	256	McCallan, S. E. A.	43
Lochhead, A. G.	41	McClain, R. L.	46
Locke, S. B.	493	McClellan, A. P. D.	27
Locquin, M.	192	McDonald, F. J.	52
Loest, F. C.	576	McDonald, J.	55
Loewy, A.	575	McDonald, J. E.	53
Lojkin, M. E.	202	McElhanney, T. A.	20
Loos, C. A.	70	McFadden, E. S.	46
Losa España, D. M.	386	McGowan, J. C.	44
Lott, T. B.	28	McKay, R.	74, 211, 23
Loughnane, J. B.	211, 235	McKeen, C. D.	50
Louw, A. J.	25, 137, 138, 326, 529	McKeon, B. F.	35
Loveless, A. R.	283	McKnight, T.	375, 42
Lowe, E. P.	195	McLaughlin, J. H.	36
Lowther, C. V.	416	McLean, D. M.	34
Lucas, G. B.	298	McLennan, E. I.	34
Luttrell, E. S.	55, 409, 478	McMartin, A.	15
		McNew, G. L.	396, 50
Maag, R.	428	McWhorter, F. P.	328, 50
Macdonald, D.	472	Meador, E. M.	37
Macdonald, J. A.	32, 81, 207	Meehan, F.	1
MacFarlane, C. S.	173	Mehta, P. R.	11
Mack, G. L.	173, 435	Meier-Jecklin, K.	53
Mack, W. B.	424	Meiffren, M.	55
MacLachlan, J. D.	505	Meiners, J. P.	187, 357, 499, 51
Maclean, N. A.	323, 324	Melekhov, I. S.	30
Macmillan, W. G.	378	Meneghini, M.	130, 56
Mader, E. O.	92, 372	Merny, G.	53
Magee, C. J.	21, 47, 76, 533	Merriam, D.	86, 33
Magie, R. O.	174, 525, 566	Meyer, J.	37
Mai, W. F.	150	Mezzetti, A.	85, 327, 394, 53
Maier-Bode, F. W.	123	M'Ghee, T. M. R.	58
Mainland, D.	438	Michel, A.	408, 40
Mains, E. B.	235	Middelhoeck, A.	7
Maire, R.	95	Midgley, A. R.	14
Malkiel, S.	160, 161	Milbraith, D. G.	459, 40
Malowany, S. N.	255	Miller, J. C.	176, 57
Manil, P.	93, 451	Miller, J. J.	4
Manley, H.	284	Miller, P. R.	9, 10, 341, 43
Manning, H. L.	474	Miller, P. W.	104, 165, 205, 299, 328, 571, 59
Manning, J. D.	297	Miller, V. L.	285, 57
Manns, T. F.	215	Miller, W. L.	47
Manowitz, M.	251	Millikan, C. R.	21, 32
Marchionatto, J. B.	101, 186, 257, 534	Millington, A. J.	
Mariat, F.	135	Mills, M.	4
Marin, A.	274	Mills, P. J.	49
Marini-Bettolo, G. B.	484	Mills, W. R.	17
Markham, R.	303, 452	Milner, M.	146, 1
		Minich, A.	3

	PAGES		PAGES
Mitchell, A. E.	569	Nugent, T. J.	59
Mitchell, H. K.	289	Nusbaum, C. J.	8, 346
Modlibowska, I.	245	Nyland, G.	511
Mollison, J. E.	449		
Mondain-Monval, P.	247	Oberholzer, P. C. J.	418
Moniz, L.	533	Öblom, K.	191
Montégut, J.	517	Ocfemia, G. O.	236, 421
Moons, J.	433	Ogilvie, L.	56, 281
Moore, H. C.	86, 88	Olive, L. S.	450
Moore, M. H.	243, 266, 370	Ollila, L.	579
Moore, W. C.	78, 461	Olmo, H. P.	130
Moreau, C.	46, 197, 564	Orian, G.	234
Moreau, M.	46	Osborn, W. L.	284
Moreira, S.	130	Ossiannilsson, F.	441
Morel, G.	407, 408	Oster, G.	161, 162
Morgan, R. L.	433	Oswald, J. W.	179
Morofsky, W. F.	581	Overley, F. L.	511
Morris, A. R.	82	Owen, O.	111, 113
Morris, H. E.	1, 3, 334	Özkan, H.	114, 349
Morrison, R. I.	437	Özkan, M.	114, 349
Morwood, R. B.	18, 189		
Mosley, V. M.	538	Padmanabhan, S. Y.	71, 309
Mostafa, M. A.	188, 577	Pady, S. M.	248
Mott, G. O.	121	Palmiter, D. H.	174, 509, 510
Motte, J.	196	Papadopol, A.	274
Mourashkinsky, K. E.	226	Pape, H.	123
Moureau, J.	122	Parham, B. E. V.	160, 407
Mudd, S.	276	Parris, G. K.	59, 592
Mühle, E.	124	Parsai, P. S.	320
Muir, J. C.	222	Patel, J. S.	71
Mulder, D.	424, 427	Patel, M. K.	43, 533
Müller, K. O.	90, 123	Pavari, A.	544, 589
Müller, K. R.	123	Pearse, H. L.	140
Mullett, R. A.	453	Pearson, E. O.	362
Muluey, R. R.	121	Peet, C. E.	140
Mumenthaler, E.	102	Pehrson, S.	105
Muncie, J. H.	109, 581	Pehrson, S. O.	501
Mundkur, B. B.	110	Peltier, G. L.	252
Mungomery, R. W.	384	Pentzer, W. T.	25
Munro, M. D.	56	Perera, S. F. H.	449
Muntañola, M.	365, 404	Perlman, D.	291
Murakishi, H.	307	Perotti, R.	508, 530, 574
Murphy, H. C.	16, 181	Perrault, C.	293
Murrill, W. A.	451	Person, L. H.	176
Musgrave, A. J.	191, 485	Perucci, E.	543
Myers, A.	54	Peters, F.	303
Myhre, ?	512	Peterson, L. C.	36, 151
		Petch, T.	101
Nagel, C. M.	17, 414, 481	Petrak, F.	74, 99, 258
Nager, U.	488	Peturson, B.	467
Naim, M. S.	577	Phaff, S. K.	75
Nattrass, R. M.	311, 455	Phillips, J. N.	247
Neal, D. C.	176, 185, 523	Phillips, W. R.	335
Nedeltscheff, N.	62	Piane, V.	46
Nef, U.	490	Piard-Douchez, Y.	151
Nel, G. C.	196	Pijper, A.	225
Newhall, A. G.	305, 404	Pimental, A. A. L.	395
Newhook, A. J.	19	Pinckard, J. A.	269
Newman, I. V.	289	Pirie, N. W.	219
Newman, R. R.	51	Pizer, N. H.	61
Newton, J. D.	255	Plakidas, A. G.	215
Newton, M.	467	Plattner, P. A.	488
Newton, W.	281, 282	Politis, J.	95
Nicholas, D. J. D.	42, 49, 583	Polunin, N.	248
Nichols, R. F. W.	63	Polyarkova, L. V.	19
Nickell, L. G.	41	Pomerleau, R.	50, 300
Nicolas, G.	236, 258, 372, 396, 570	Porter, R. H.	53
Nielsen, L. W.	91, 119	Porter, R. P.	59
Nienow, I.	282	Posnette, A. F.	178, 179, 515
Nikolaeva, T. L.	9	Pound, G. S.	269, 270, 305
Noël, C.	177		
Nord, F. F.	167		

	PAGES		PAGE
Powell, D.	32, 432	Rodríguez Landaeta, A.	4
Prasada, R.	517, 560	Rogers, C. H.	52
Pratt, A. J.	539	Rogers, D. P.	49
Pratt, R.	377	Roland, G.	106, 187, 345, 441, 58
Prendergast, A. G.	251	Roll-Hansen, F.	20
Prentice, A. N.	474	Romano, F. R.	14
Prentice, I. W.	571	Roschman, C.	44
Presley, J. T.	107, 523	Rose, C. D.	48
Preston, A.	342	Rosella, E.	55
Preston, D. A.	248, 358, 586	Rosen, H. R.	36
Price, W. C.	107, 403, 566	Ross, A. F.	8
Pryor, D. E.	308	Rossetti, V.	12
Pucci, A.	458	Roth, S.	48
		Routien, J. B.	49
Quantz, L.	123	Rowell, J. B.	43
Quastel, J. H.	583	Rozendaal, A.	3
		Ruehle, G. D.	8
Racicot, H. N.	537	Ruggieri, G.	70, 234, 286, 317, 318, 338, 46
Racovitza, A.	274, 500	Rupert, J.	27
Rademacher, B.	248	Russell, R. C.	31
Rader, W. E.	271	Ryberg, O.	436, 44
Raeder, J. M.	118	Ryker, T. C.	17
Raikov, E. B.	399		
Rainey, R. C.	474	Sabourova, P. V.	1
Ramakrishnan, K. V.	581	Saccas, A.	51
Ramakrishnan, T. S.	159, 451, 561	Sackston, W. S.	32
Ramamoorthy, C. S.	91	Sahasrabudhe, K. R.	31
Ramon, G.	451	Saint, S. J.	15
Ramsey, G. B.	550	Salisbury, E.	4
Rangel, J. F.	440	Sallans, B. J.	229, 31
Raper, K. B.	33	Salzmann, R.	152, 22
Raucourt, M.	408	Sam Raj, J.	203, 54
Rautou, S.	335	Samson, R. W.	119, 120, 341, 355, 35
Rawlins, T. E.	313, 499	Samuel, L. W.	1
Ray, W. W.	523	Sanderson, K.	48
Raychaudhuri, S. P.	526	Sandu-Ville, C.	27
Rayner, M. C.	548	Sandwith, N. Y.	56
Rayner, R. W.	280	Sanford, G. B.	254, 29
Read, W. H.	111, 112	Sarmah, K. C.	25
Reckendorfer, P.	288	Sarojini, T. S.	15
Reddick, D.	88, 151	Sartory, A.	37
Reed, G. M.	180	Sartory, R.	37
Reeves, E. L.	285	Sass, J. E.	29
Reinking, O. A.	175, 509	Sauer, H. F. G.	20
Reinmuth, E.	123, 289	Savile, D. B. O.	100, 55
Reitsma, J.	44, 457	Săvulescu, A.	443, 54
Reitz, L. P.	233	Săvulescu, O.	381, 54
Rennerfelt, E.	397	Săvulescu, T.	274, 311, 415, 448, 458
Reynolds, F. J.	186		479, 51
Rhoads, A. S.	23, 105, 279	Scaramuzzi, G.	201, 48
Ricchello, A.	380	Searth, G. W.	57
Rich, A. E.	254	Scheffer, T. C.	54
Rich, S.	272	Scherz, W.	21
Richards, C. A.	267	Schmidt, E. L.	19
Richardson, E. G.	328	Schneider, H.	13
Richardson, L. T.	335	Schnicker, J. L.	14
Richou, R.	451	Schroeder, W. T.	107, 164, 174, 175, 435
Richter, H.	123		453, 50
Rickett, H. W.	497	Schuk, K.	1
Riedl, W. A.	492	Schulte, H.	31
Rieman, G. H.	492	Schultz, A. S.	4
Riker, A. J.	165, 267	Schultz, E. S.	33
Riley, C. G.	266	Schuster, C. E.	29
Roach, W. A.	42	Schwalb, H.	14
Roane, C. W.	560	Schwartz, T.	45
Roberts, C.	372	Schwartz, C. D.	51
Roberts, F. M.	577	Scott, C. E.	42
Roberts, R.	320	Scott, R. C.	55
Roberts, W. O.	74	Scott, W. A.	34
Robinson, W. B.	453	Scurti, J.	480, 48
Rodenhiser, H. A.	12, 127	Sedziak, H. P.	34
		Sellschop, J.	17

INDEX OF AUTHORS

601

	PAGES		PAGES
Selman, I. W.	102, 110, 111, 112, 389	Steib, R.	495
Semeniuk, G.	17	Steinbauer, G. P.	88
Semsroth, H.	149	Steinberg, R. A.	263
Sergeant, E.	419	Steinmetz, F. H.	87
Severin, H. H. P.	323, 344, 345, 353, 592	Stelzner, G.	149
Shands, W. A.	87	Stevenson, E. C.	586
Sharvelle, E. G.	139	Stevenson, F. J.	34, 37, 85, 332, 334
Shaw, M.	575	Stevenson, J. A.	451
Shay, J. R.	356, 480	Stewart, D.	1
Sheard, E.	111	Stewart, W. S.	233, 561
Shelton, F. A.	341	Steyaert, R. L.	122, 376, 451, 463
Sherman, G. D.	154	Stickings, C. E.	399
Sherwin, H. S.	403	Stief, J. L.	41
Shirlow, N. S.	400	Stoa, T. E.	185
Sibilia, C.	589	Stoddard, D. L.	346
Siggers, P. V.	267, 398	Stoddard, E. M.	531
Silberschmidt, K. M.	553	Stoeff, K.	62
Silva, P.	226	Storey, I. F.	278
Simmonds, J. H.	221	Storey, W. B.	431
Simmonds, P. M.	229	Störmer, K.	123
Simpson, D. M.	87, 523	Stotz, E.	453
Simpson, G. W.	332	Stout, D. C.	50
Sinclair, W. B.	521	Stout, G. L.	355, 465
Singh, B. N.	154	Street, O. E.	175
Skinner, C. E.	46	Strickland, A. H.	515
Skolko, A. J.	342	Strong, W. F.	505
Slaby, O.	565	Stuart, G. M.	57
Slagg, C. M.	228	Stuart, N. W.	422
Sleesman, J. P.	31, 89	Stubbs, L. L.	5
Slooff, W. C.	44	Sueda, H.	132
Slykhuis, J. T.	241	Sukhov, K. S.	17, 48
Smith, A. L.	523	Suneson, C. A.	567
Smith, C. O.	139	Sutton, W. S.	587
Smith, D.	283	Swenson, S. P.	12
Smith, F. F.	87, 364	Swingle, C. F.	340
Smith, F. L.	506	Sylvester, E. S.	54
Smith, G.	83	Szolnidi, M.	265
Smith, G. E.	341	Szuleta, J.	504
Smith, J. H.	167		
Smith, K. M.	452, 461	Takahashi, W. N.	162, 460, 499
Smith, L.	277	Tapke, V. F.	467
Smith, P. A.	253	Taylor, C. F.	140, 570
Smith, R. M.	146	Taylor, R. E.	168, 283
Smith, T. E.	264, 390	Techitch, J. P.	6
Smock, R. M.	368	Terra, G. J. A.	131
Smolák, J.	503	Tessier, P.	399
Smoyer, K. M.	233	Texera, D. A.	290
Smucker, S. J.	268	Thayer, J. J.	182
Snieszko, S. F.	195	Thayesen, A. C.	82
Snyder, E.	331	Thews, E. R.	440
Soloveva, A. I.	19, 475	Thexton, R. H.	41
Soós, I.	552	Thirumalachar, M. J.	100, 136, 240
Soumini, C. K.	159	Thomas, H. E.	372, 373
Southwell, G. A.	412	Thomas, I.	12, 517
Soutter, R. E.	69	Thomas, K. M.	159, 451
Spackman, W.	268, 503	Thomas, R. C.	413
Spangenberg, J.	133	Thomas, W.	424
Spilsbury, J. F.	253	Thorold, C. A.	222
Sprague, R.	136, 187, 324, 357, 366, 499, 527	Thorpe, H. C.	312
Sproston, T. J.	367, 576	Throssell, G. L.	517
Sreenivasaya, M.	585	Thung, T. H.	35, 44, 200, 330
Staehelin, M.	272	Tilemans, E.	328, 432
Stair, E. C.	356	Timonin, M. I.	359
Staniland, L. N.	52	Tims, E. C.	7, 176, 549
Stanley, W. M.	160, 161	Tippo, O.	268, 503
Stansly, P. G.	250	Tisdale, W. B.	53, 125, 586
Stanton, T. R.	15, 180	Tocchetto, A.	154, 215
Stanton, W. R.	49	Toh, J. S.	403
Stapp, C.	123	Tokunaga, Y.	377
Stark, F. L.	155	Tolaas, A. G.	88
Starr, G. H.	38, 39, 91, 492	Tolhurst, J. A. H.	43
Stechert, G. M.	486	Tomaszewski, W.	304
Steckel, J. E.	507		

	PAGES		PAGES
Tomesco, V. C.	479	Waldo, G. F.	375
Tompkins, C. M.	238, 324	Walker, J. C.	58, 212, 392, 399
Toole, E. R.	299, 300	Walker, K. C.	511
Townsend, G. R.	53	Walker, M. N.	405
Treggi, G.	590	Wallace, G. B. 158, 163, 224, 353, 474, 483, 591	591
Tripp, D.	529	Wallace, J. G.	475
Trivelli, G.	273	Wallace, J. M.	519
Truszkowska, W.	535	Wallace, M. M.	158, 483, 565
Tsui, C.	452	Wallace, T.	42, 195
Tubbs, F. R.	197, 198, 199, 297, 388	Walsh, J. C.	568
Tucker, C. M.	238, 341	Walter, J. M.	50, 268
Tukey, L. D.	574	Wang, H. R.	128
Tullis, E. C.	335	Waring, E. J.	400
Tunblad, B.	422	Wark, D. C.	399
Tunstall, A. C.	259, 298	Wartenberg, H.	123
Turner, J. N.	485	Washko, J. B.	175
Turrell, F. M.	521	Waterhouse, W. L.	561
Tyler, L. J.	13	Waterman, A. M.	395, 505
Tyner, L. E.	467	Watson, I. A.	316
Tysdal, H. M.	24	Watson, M.	165
		Watson, R. D.	118, 500
		Watts Padwick, G.	31
Ullstrup, A. J.	120, 355, 356	Weatherburn, M. W.	377, 576
Uppal, B. N.	43	Weatherby, C. A.	49
Uribe Arango, H.	132	Weatherly, P. E.	225
Urquhart, D. H.	508	Webb, S.	305
Urquijo Landaluze, P.	113, 165	Weber, A.	410
Uschdraweit, H. A.	456	Wedberg, S. E.	238
		Wei, C. T.	155
		Weimer, J. L.	6, 270, 478, 522
Vágó, I.	534	Weller, D. M.	494
Valleau, W. D.	101, 264, 391	Wellner, C. A.	210
Van der Kiste, W. R.	199	Went, J. C.	160
Van der Laan, P. A.	202	Wenzl, H.	189, 208, 213
Van der Plank, J. E.	218, 521, 538	Werner, H. O.	88
Vanderwalle, R.	463	Wernham, C. C.	413
Van der Want, J. P. H.	200	Werth, E.	123
Van Dillewijn, C.	256	West, E.	125, 126
Van Hell, W. F.	376	Westerdijk, J.	123
Van Hoof, H. A.	457	Westergaard, M.	288
Van Koot, Y.	204, 244, 430	Westgate, M. W.	377
Van Leer, R.	382	Weston, W. H.	323
Vanterpool, T. C.	21	Whelan, L. A.	544
Varada Rajan, B. S.	71	Whitaker, T. W.	301
Varma, P. M.	309, 549	White, F. A.	232, 470, 511
Vasilev, A. A.	475	White, N. H.	13
Vasudeva, R. S.	91, 203, 544, 578	White, R. T.	363
Venkataratan, S. V.	144, 216, 379	White, W. L.	258, 486
Verderevsky, D. D.	475	Whitehead, T.	144
Verona, O.	94, 514, 534, 574	Whitelaw, E. W.	46
Vicklund, R. E.	251	Whiteside, A. G. O.	467
Viégas, A. P.	100, 450	Wickens, G. M.	477
Viennot-Bourgin, G.	586	Wiebe, G. A.	1
Vincent, J. M.	142, 143, 247	Wiehe, P. O.	44, 388
Vital, A.	347	Wiertz, G.	208
Vitopil, W. L.	525	Wikén, T.	191, 211
Vitucci, J. C.	167	Wilcox, M. S.	2
Vivani, W.	394	Wilcoxon, F.	433
Vlasveld, W. P. N.	426	Wild, H.	100
Voelcker, O. J.	515	Wildman, J. D.	14
Volcani, Z.	458	Wilds, G. J.	18
Volp, P.	497	Wilhelm, S.	323
Vovk, A. M.	17, 48	Wilkins, W. H.	433
Vuittenez, A.	531	Wilkinson, E. H.	4
		Williams, H. E.	28
		Williams, P. H.	11
		Williams, R. O.	27
		Williams, T. I.	19
		Wilska, A.	14
		Wilson, C.	17
		Wilson, E. E.	75, 10
		Wilson, J. D.	31, 39, 4
		Wilson, J. H.	57
Wade, G. C.	249, 438, 487, 530		
Wagener, W. W.	545		
Wager, H. G.	153, 294		
Wager, V. A.	144, 185, 563		
Waksman, S. A.	41		
Waldee, E. L.	513		

	PAGES
Wilson, J. K.	143
Wilson, J. W.	89
Wilson, R. A.	529
Wilson, R. D.	34, 400
Wilson, W. F.	176
Winter, G.	123
Wismer, C. A.	495
Wolf, F. A.	23, 163, 288, 499
Wolf, F. T.	288, 499
Wood, C. A.	140
Wood, J. I.	9, 341
Woods, M. W.	374
Woodward, R. W.	12
Wright, C. M.	285
Wright, E.	105
Wright, N. S.	39
Wright, T. R.	326
Wurgler, W.	272
Wyckoff, R. W. G.	452, 538

	PAGES
Yarkina, M. A.	226
Yarwood, C. E.	72, 148, 247
Yin, K. Y.	242
Yogeswari, L.	155
Yossifovitch, M.	26
Young, R. A.	396
Young, V. H.	523
Yousef, H. M.	290
Yu, T. F.	550
Zabala, A.	389
Zach, C.	369
Zaumeyer, W. J.	56
Zentmyer, G. A.	483
Zillig, H.	123
Zobrist, L.	422
Zogg, H.	155, 220
Zwirn-Hirsch, H. E.	235

GENERAL INDEX

- Aabeta, use of, against damping-off of beet, 456.
Aagrano, use of, against damping-off of beet, 456;
as a seed treatment for flax and hemp, 421.
Abaca bunchy top virus on *Musa textilis* in
British N. Borneo, 21; (?) identical with
banana bunchy top virus, 22; transmission of,
by *Pentalonia caladii*, 421; *P. nigronevosa*,
236.
Abavit, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa*
on sugar-cane, 386; *Pleospora calvescens* on
opium poppy, 124; sugar-cane diseases, 156.
— B, use of, against *Xanthomonas malvacearum*
on cotton, 184.
— S, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on
sugar-cane, 157.
Abies, (?) *Sclerotinia fuckeliana* on, in U.S.A., 503.
— balsamea, deterioration of, in fire-killed stand
in Canada, 343.
— —, *Polyporus amorphus* on, in U.S.A., 167.
— bornmuelleriana, *Melampsorella caryophyl-
lacearum* on, in Turkey, 115.
Absidia on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
Abutilon variegation virus, history of, 566.
— — — on *Phenax sonneratii* in Brazil, 553.
Acaulopage baculisporea and *A. gyrinodes*, 420.
Acer, *Fomes connatus*, *Gloeosporium apocryptum*,
Hydnum septentrionale, and *Phytophthora cac-
torum* on, in U.S.A., 502.
—, *Polyporus obtusus* on, in North America, 266.
—, *Verticillium* on, in U.S.A., 502.
— negundo, *A. pseudoplatanus*, and *A. saccharum*,
Cristulariella pyramidalis on, in U.S.A., 395.
Acetylene dicarboxylic acid, fungistatic prop-
erties of, 440.
Achlya, conservation of cultures of, 329.
— on rice in Formosa, 446.
Achromobacter perolens in food, 489.
Aconitum, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 527.
Acremonia, conservation of cultures of, 329.
— atra on tobacco in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
Acremonium, antagonism of, to *Fusarium cul-
morum*, 241.
Acrothecium penniseti on *Pennisetum typhoides* in
Ceylon, 555.
Actinomyces, antagonism of, to *Ceratostomella*
ulmi, 265; *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 293;
Fusarium vasinfectum, 177; *Pythium*, 297.
— in food, 489.
— in soil in U.S.A., 297.
— on flax and hemp fibres, 379.
— on jute textiles in India, 378.
— on potato in Holland, 194.
—, production of actinomycin by, 203.
— lavendulae, production of streptothricin by,
203.
— scabies, antagonism between *Corticium solani*
and, 193.
— — can infect soy-bean and wheat, 294.
— on potato, 294; in Australia, 37; Holland,
194; Rumania, 443; U.S.A., 85, 88, 121, 152,
466, 492, 540; breeding against, 34, 579;
control, 37, 119, 121, 193; factors affecting,
152; new form of, 443; rotation of varieties as
a control measure, 194; varietal reaction to,
34, 85, 88, 119, 121, 151, 194, 492, 540.
Actinomycetales, taxonomy of, 513.
Actinomycetes, effect of DDT on, 143.
— in soil in Canada, 41; Italy, 94; New Guinea
and U.S.A., 41; toxicity of, to *Azotobacter*
vinelandii, 41.
— on oats in U.S.A., 294.
Actinomycin from *Actinomyces*, 203; toxicity of
to *Cercospora nicotianae*, 203.
Actinopelte, taxonomy of, 500.
— dryina on oak in Rumania, 500.
Aegilops, *Puccinia glumarum* on, morphology of,
518.
— cylindrica and *A. ovata*, *Puccinia glumarum*
on, in Turkey, 114.
Aerobacter dissolvens, *Bacterium dissolvens* a
synonym of, 514.
Aerobiology, 289.
Aeroplanes, dusting and spraying by, 328, 435.
Aerosols, fungicidal, use of, as foliage protectants,
288.
Aesculus hippocastanum, see Horse-chestnut.
Agallia albidula transmitting tomato spotted
wilt virus, 203.
— constricta transmitting clover big vein virus,
24.
Agalliopsis novella transmitting clover big vein
virus, 24; clover club leaf virus, 239.
Agaricus xanthoderma, toxicity of, 46.
Agave wightii, *Phytophthora* on, study on, 451.
— —, — palmivora on, in India, 159; oospore
formation in, 159.
Aglaospora on tea, 260.
Agrobacterium, taxonomy of, 512.
Agropyron, *Claviceps purpurea* on, in Italy, 67.
—, *Puccinia glumarum* on, in Iran, 227; morpho-
logy of, 518.
— —, — persists on, morphology of, 518.
— cristatum, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 558.
— —, *Corticium solani* on, 187.
— —, *Fusarium arthrosporioides*, *F. culmorum*,
F. equiseti, *F. oxysporum*, *F. scirpi* var.
acuminatum, *F. solani*, *Helminthosporium*
scutivum, *Pythium debaryanum*, and *P. ultimum*
on, in Canada, 241.
— repens, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 527.
— —, *Claviceps purpurea* on, in U.S.A., 558.
— —, *Physoderma* on, in U.S.A., 240.
— —, *Puccinia graminis* on, in Turkey, 114.
— —, — persists on, in Turkey, 115.
— smithii, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 558.
Agrosan, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on
tomato, 588; *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar
cane, 386; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum,
19; as a seed treatment for crucifers, 343; for
flax, 20.
— G, use of, against *Macrophomina phaseoli* on
jute, 72; sugar-cane diseases, 156.
— G N, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa*
on sugar-cane, 157.
Agrostis, *Ophiobolus graminis* on, in Australia,
559.
— alba, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325.
Air, bacteria and fungi in, in the Arctic, 248.
Albizia julibrissin, *Fusarium perniciosum* on, in
U.S.A., 299, 300.
— moluccana, *Ganoderma pseudoferreum* on, in
Malaya, 464.
Alder (*Alnus*), *Ciboria alni* on, in Denmark, 498.
— die-back, 166.
—, *Fomes ignarius* var. *nigricans* and *Merulius*
niveus on, in U.S.A., 207.
—, *Passalora bacillifera* on, in Canada, 555.
—, *Pennispora aurantiaca*, *Poria ferrea*, and
Stereum hirsutum on, in U.S.A., 207.
Aleurites fordii, copper deficiency in, in U.S.A.,
396.
Aleurodiscus on tea, 260.

- [*Aleurodiscus*] *weirii* on *Tsuga mertensiana* in U.S.A., 207.
- Alfalfa, see Lucerne.
- Alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chlorides, use of, against *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38.
- Allium*, *Sclerotium cepivorum* on, culture of, 134.
- *ampeloprasum*, *Puccinia allii* on, in Turkey, 114.
- *ascalonicum*, see Shallot.
- *cepa*, see Onion.
- *porrum*, see Leek.
- *sativum*, see Garlic.
- *schoenoprasum*, see Chives.
- Allyl bromide, use of, against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. *callostephii* on aster, 23.
- Almond (*Prunus amygdalus*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in Hungary, 140.
- , *Cercospora circumscissa* and *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Hyalodendron* on, in Sicily, 286.
- , mosaic in Italy, 245.
- , *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in Spain, 386; U.S.A., 139.
- Alnus*, see Alder.
- Alternaria*, differentiation between *Stemphylium* and, 46.
- on citrus in U.S.A., 562.
- on flax, 20; in Eire, 236.
- on *Hevea* rubber in Mexico, 92.
- on opium poppy in Germany, 124.
- on ornamental plants, control, 422.
- on radish in U.S.A., 344.
- on soy-bean in U.S.A., (?) 7, 459.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- on tobacco in Italy, 201.
- on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- on vine in Costa Rica, 461; U.S.A., 410.
- on wheat in Egypt, 231.
- on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146.
- , toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- *anagallidis* var. *linariae* on *Chrysanthemum carinatum* in Denmark, 411.
- *brassicae* on cabbage, Chinese cabbage, and Chinese mustard in Ceylon, 196.
- — on radish in Argentina, 257; U.S.A., 344.
- — on turnip in Argentina, 257.
- *brassicicola* on cabbage in Ceylon, 196.
- — on *Godetia hybrida* in Denmark, 411.
- — on kohlrabi in Ceylon, 197.
- — on radish in U.S.A., 344.
- *capsici-annui* on chilli in Rumania, 458.
- *carolinaeana* on *Dahlia variabilis* in Spain, 387.
- *cichorii* on *Plantago major* and safflower in Turkey, 350.
- *citri* on citrus in Morocco, 319.
- — on date palm in U.S.A., 431.
- — on orange in U.S.A., 233.
- *cookei* on *Datura metel* in Turkey, 351; *Macrosporium cookei* synonym of, 351.
- (?) *cucumerina* on cantaloupe in U.S.A., 66.
- — on cucumber in U.S.A., 109.
- *dawci* on carrot in Ceylon, 555; Queensland, 221.
- *dianthi* on *Saponaria officinalis* in Turkey, 351.
- *gossypina* on cotton in S. Africa, 472, 475.
- *longipes* on chilli in Turkey, 458.
- — on tobacco in Southern Rhodesia, 118, 200.
- *macrospora* on cotton in Brazil, 100; S. Africa, 472, 475.
- *oleracea* var. *tumida* on cabbage in Ceylon, 197.
- *passiflorae* on passion fruit in New Zealand, 116.
- [*Alternaria*] *radicina* on carrot in Bulgaria, 399.
- *raphani* on radish in U.S.A., 344.
- *solani* on *Datura stramonium* in Brazil, 100.
- — on eggplant in England, 462; New S. Wales, 587.
- — on potato in Assam, 411; Brazil, 100; Canada, 39; Denmark, 443; India, 89; Madagascar, 81; Southern Rhodesia, 118; U.S.A., 89, 574, 581; control, 89, 118, 331, 411, 574, 581; factors affecting, 443; varietal reaction to, 351.
- — on *Solanum* in New S. Wales, 588.
- — on tomato in New S. Wales, 587; Queensland, 221; U.S.A., 49, 164, 174; Venezuela, 391; control, 49, 164, 174, 221, 284, 288, 463, 588; factors affecting, 391.
- *sonchi* on chicory, endive, lettuce, and *Zinnia elegans* in Brazil, 100.
- *tabacina* on tobacco in Madagascar, 80.
- *tenuis*, control, 484.
- — on cotton textiles, 487.
- — on radish in U.S.A., 344.
- — f. *genuina* on chilli and eggplant in Argentina, 458.
- Althaea*, see Hollyhock.
- Alyssum alyssoides*, *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
- *saxatile*, *Peronospora galligena* on, in England, 462.
- Amanita muscaria* and *A. pantherina*, toxicity of, 46.
- *vittadinii*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- Amaranthus*, *Cystopus bliti* on, in Rumania, 543.
- *gangeticus*, *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- —, *Rhizoctonia* on, in Malaya, 464.
- *graezicans*, *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
- *retroflexus*, beet mosaic virus on, 270.
- Amberine, use of, against *Puccinia graminis* on wheat, 358.
- Ambrosia fungi, classification of, 565.
- Amelanchier canadensis*, *Apiosporina collinsii* on, in U.S.A., 45.
- 2-amino-thiazole, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
- Ammonium hexanitrodiphenylamine, see Aurantia.
- molybdate, reaction of plants to, correlation between susceptibility to virus diseases and, 311.
- —, use of, against flax lower leaf scorch, 322; against molybdenum deficiency in cabbage, cauliflower, mustard, and tomato, 401.
- nitrate, use of, against nitrogen deficiency in apple, 425.
- oleate, use of, as an emulsifier, 407.
- pentachlorophenate, use of, as a timber preservative, 547.
- sulphamate, use of, as a herbicide, 64.
- sulphate, use of, with diesel oil, for killing potato haulms, 493.
- Amoebae, *Acaulopage baculispora*, *A. gyrinodes*, and *Stylopage rhinacra* on, 420.
- Amphorophora rubi* transmitting raspberry curly dwarf and mosaic viruses, 141.
- Ananas comosus*, see Pineapple.
- Anaphoidea nitens*, *Empusa* on, in Kenya, 312.
- Andropogon hirtus*, *Sphacelotheca andropogonis* on, in Madeira, 586.
- Anemone coronaria*, *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in Turkey, 115.
- Anisaldehyde, use of, with mercuric chloride, against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.

- Annona reticulata*, see Custard apple.
- Anthemis arvensis*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- Anthyllis*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Switzerland, 480.
- *vulneraria*, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
- Antibiotics, bibliography of researches on, 192.
- from fungi, 83; *Fusarium oxysporum* f. 2, 290.
- Antirrhinum*, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , *Diplotodina passerinii* on, in Turkey, 349.
- , *Heteropatella antirrhini* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- , *Oidium* on, in England, 78.
- , *Peronospora antirrhini* on, in Scotland, 475; U.S.A., 72.
- , *Puccinia antirrhini* on, in Greece, 95; Rumania, 274; Spain, 386; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 239; control, 239, 248.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- Antivermin, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 428.
- Ants transmitting *Botrytis paeoniae*, 423.
- Anuraphis padi* transmitting peach mosaic virus, 27.
- Aphanomyces* on chilli, eggplant, and lettuce in U.S.A., 10.
- *cochlioides* on beet in U.S.A., 3, 4, 402.
- *euteiches* on pea in U.S.A., 509.
- Aphids transmitting *Matthiola incana* mosaic virus, 567; potato leaf roll virus, 538; potato virus diseases, 123.
- Aphis fabae* transmitting beet mosaic virus, 270; beet yellows virus, 107; potato virus Y, 334.
- *gossypii* transmitting *Canna* mosaic virus, 364; celery calico virus, 323; cucumber mosaic virus, 236, 533; western cucumber mosaic virus, 323.
- *idiae* transmitting raspberry curly dwarf and mosaic viruses, 141.
- *maidis* transmitting *Canna* mosaic virus, 364.
- *rhamni* transmitting potato virus Y, 334, 441.
- *rumicis* transmitting western cucumber mosaic virus, 323.
- (?) *tavaresi* transmitting citrus 'tristeza', 130, 564.
- Aphrophora saratogensis* in relation to *Nectria cucurbitula* on pine, 267.
- Apiosporina collinsii* on *Amelanchier canadensis* in U.S.A., 45.
- Apium graveolens*, see Celery.
- Aplanobacter magroui* on *Pelargonium* in France, 135.
- Apple (*Malus pumila*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 224; U.S.A., 372.
- , *Bacterium rhizogenes* and *B. tumefaciens* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , boron deficiency in, in (?) England, 242; Finland, 337; Switzerland, 530.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, 368.
- brown heart in U.S.A., 368.
- , *Corticium galactinum* on, in U.S.A., 326.
- , *Coryneum foliicola* on, in France, 242.
- , *Erwinia amylovora* on, in Canada, 138.
- , *Glomerella cingulata* on, in Madagascar, 80; U.S.A., 481; production of toxins by, 369.
- green blotch in England, 245; (?) caused by frost, 245; varietal reaction to, 246.
- , *Gymnosporangium clavipes* and *G. globosum* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , — *juniperinum* on, in Rumania, 387.
- , — *juniperi-virginianae* on, in U.S.A., (?) 174, 285, 510, 573.
- internal bark necrosis in U.S.A., 424.
- [Apple], iron deficiency in, control, 74.
- , *Lambertella corni-maris* on, 368, 369; production of toxins by, 369.
- , *Macrophoma kuwatsu-kaii* on, in China, 242.
- , magnesium deficiency in, in Holland, 427; New Zealand, 117, 369.
- , manganese deficiency in, control, 74.
- , mineral deficiencies in, in England, 243.
- , mosaic in New Zealand, 116; virus origin of, 116.
- , *Myxosporium corticola* on, in France, 241.
- , *Nectria galligena* on, in Eire, 75; France, 425; effect of growth substances on, 285; testing of fungicides against, 244; varietal reaction to, 75.
- , *Neofabraea malicorticis* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , nitrogen deficiency in, in France, 424; Switzerland, 530.
- nutrition, revised edition of handbook on, 568.
- , *Penicillium expansum* on, 368, 369; production of enzymes by, 369.
- , *Phoma pomi* on, in U.S.A., 573.
- , phosphorus deficiency in, in Switzerland, 530.
- , *Phyllosticta solitaria* on, in U.S.A., 529, 573.
- , *Phyalospora mutila* on, production of toxins by, 369.
- , — *obtusa* on, in Brazil, 122; France, 425; Tasmania, 530; *Sphaeropsis malorum* imperfect state of, 425.
- , *Phytophthora* (?) *cactorum* can infect, 125.
- , *Podosphaera leucotricha* on, in Brazil, 122; France, 425; Rumania, 274; Switzerland, 273, 369; Tanganyika Territory, 158; control, 273, 369; varietal reaction to, 425.
- , potassium deficiency in, in New Zealand, 370; Switzerland, 530; control, 74, 530.
- pseudo-suberosis, varietal reaction to, 480.
- scald in New Zealand, 115; U.S.A., 368; control, 368; factors affecting, 115; revised bulletin on control of, 137; varietal reaction to, 568.
- , *Schizophyllum commune* on, in France, 241.
- , *Sclerotinia fructicola* on, 368, 369; production of enzymes by, 369.
- , — *fructigena* and *S. laxa* on, in England, 371.
- , — *nipponica* on, 368.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *Sphaeronema pruinosum* on, in England, 79.
- spot disease in U.S.A., 368.
- , *Stereum purpureum* on, in Hungary, 140.
- storage disorders, control, 369.
- , *Trichothecium roseum* on, in Denmark, 411.
- , *Ustilina zonata* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 224.
- , *Venturia inaequalis* on, in England, 370, 371; France, 529; Holland, 426; New Zealand, 117; S. Africa, 25, 137, 138, 326, 529; Sweden, 428; Switzerland, 273, 369, 428; U.S.A., 65, 174, 356, 425, 481, 509, 573; Western Australia, 568; ascospore discharge in, 137; breeding against, 356; control, 25, 74, 117, 137, 174, 273, 284, 326, 356, 369, 370, 371, 426, 428, 481, 509, 529, 573; effect of plant extracts on germination of conidia in, 25; epidemiology of, 138; factors affecting, 26, 137, 138, 426; inheritance of pathogenicity in, 480; legislation against, in Western Australia, 569; losses caused by, 26; testing of fungicides against, 243; varietal reaction to, 26, 117, 568.
- wilt in New Zealand, 115.
- , zinc deficiency in, in Denmark, 424; Holland, 337, 424; Switzerland, 424; U.S.A., 511.

- Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*) 'apoplexy' in Hungary, 139.
 —, *Armillaria mellea* on, in Hungary, 140; U.S.A., 372.
 —, (?) boron deficiency in, in Canberra, 222.
 — curl disease in Austria, 189.
 —, peach mosaic virus on, in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, 27; transmission of, by *Anuraphis padi*, 27.
 —, *Phytophthora* on, 123.
 —, — (?) cactorum on, 125.
 —, *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in Brazil, 122; Turkey, 115.
 —, *Schizophyllum commune* on, in Hungary, 140.
 —, *Sclerotinia laxa* on, in France, 430.
 —, *Stereum purpureum* on, in Hungary, 140.
 —, *Valsa leucostoma* on, in Hungary, 140; *Cytospora rubescens* imperfect state of, 140.
 —, *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in Hungary, 139.
 — wilt in France, 570.
 —, winter injury in, in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, 27.
Aquilegia, *Haplobasidium pavoninum* on, in Canada, 555.
Arabis, *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
Arachis hypogaea, see Groundnut.
 Arasan, effect of, on lily bulbs, 512; on puratized N5E, 187.
 —, use of, against beet black root, 304; damping-off of beet, 2; of cucumber, 109; maize seedling diseases, 120; pea root rots, 169; *Penicillium* on hyacinth, 281; on iris and tulip, 282; *Phoma betae* on beet, 3; *Rhizoctonia* on cabbage and lettuce, 126; *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 512; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361; as a seed treatment for bean, 54; beet, 2, 54; Brussels sprouts and cabbage, 54; cucumber, 54, 176; flax, 134; groundnut, 66; *Hibiscus esculentus*, 347; maize, 54, 278, 356, 469; onion, 404; pea, 54, 213; *Phaseolus lunatus*, 54; rice, 176, 381; *Ricinus communis*, 586; soy-bean, 403; squash, 176; vegetables, 53.
 — SF, use of, against mould fungi on seed, 511; *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361.
 Arbovit oil, use of, as a timber preservative, 209.
Areca palm (*Areca catechu*), *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
Arenaria serpyllifolia, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* can infect, 365.
 Aretan, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 45, 157, 386, 542; sugar-cane diseases, 156.
Armillaria mellea, geographical distribution and host range of, 96.
 — in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
 — on almond in Hungary, 140.
 — on apple in Tanganyika Territory, 224; U.S.A., 372.
 — on apricot in Hungary, 140; U.S.A., 372.
 — on *Bougainvillea* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 — on cherry in New S. Wales, 28.
 — on chestnut in U.S.A., 372.
 — on *Corylus avellana* in the Pacific Northwest, 166.
 — on *Cupressus forbesii* and *C. macrocarpa* in U.S.A., 545.
 — on *Daphne mezereum* in England, 462.
 — on *Diospyros lotus* and fig in U.S.A., 372.
 — on *Hevea* rubber in the Belgian Congo, 123, 382.
 — [*Armillaria mellea*] on horse-chestnut in England, 399; biochemistry of, 399.
 — on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
 — on *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus* in New S. Wales, 275.
 — on *Olearia hastii* in England, 462.
 — on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
 — on peach in Holland, 244; Hungary, 140.
 — on pear and persimmon in U.S.A., 372.
 — on plum in Holland, 244; Hungary, 140; U.S.A., 372.
 — on *Pyrus betulafolia* and *P. calleryana* in U.S.A., 372.
 — on tomato in England, 462.
 — on walnut in Hungary, 140; U.S.A., 103, 372.
 —, physiology of, 490.
Arrhenatherum, *Puccinia glumarum* on, morphology of, 518.
 —, *elatus*, *Ustilago perennans* on, types of, 124, 125.
 (?) Arsenic injury to soy-bean, 7.
 —, use of, as a timber preservative, 208.
Arthrobotrys on sheep's dung in Palestine, capturing of nematodes by, 235.
 Artichoke (*Cynara scolymus*), *Bremia lactucae* on, in England, 462.
 —, *Ramularia cynarae* on, in Turkey, 350.
Artocarpus communis, see Breadfruit.
 —, *incisa*, *Phytophthora* on, study on, 451.
 —, *integer*, see Jak tree.
 Arum lily, see *Zantedeschia*.
Aschersonia on tea, 260.
 —, *turbinata* on scale insects in Brazil, 450.
 (?) *Ascochyta* on custard apple in Kenya, 312.
 — on orange in Argentina, 257.
 —, *abelmoschi* on *Hibiscus esculentus* and *H. rosa-sinensis* in Ceylon, 197.
 —, *bohemica* on *Campanula medium* in England, 79.
 —, *boltshauseri* on bean in Holland, 456; varietal reaction to, 457.
 —, *cannae* on *Canna coccinea* in Brazil, 122.
 —, *caricae* on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
 —, *carthami* on safflower in France, 383.
 —, *cinerariae* on cineraria in England, 79.
 —, *citricola* on orange in the Cameroons and South Australia, 564.
 —, *cyphomandrae* on *Cyphomandra betacea* in Ceylon, 197.
 —, *gossypii* on cotton in Tanganyika Territory, 474, 565.
 —, *graminicola* on barley and oats in Turkey, 349.
 —, *nicotianae* on tobacco in Italy, 201.
 —, *phaseolorum* on bean in Holland, 456.
 — on soy-bean in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 —, *phleina* on *Phleum pratense* in U.S.A., 528.
 —, *piniperda* on spruce in Belgium, 463.
 —, *pinodella* on broad bean in Turkey, 349.
 — on *Lathyrus*, specific reaction to, 270.
 — on pea in Turkey, 349; U.S.A., 169, 270; Victoria, 591; control, 4, 169, 591; varietal reaction to, 169, 270.
 —, *pisi*, inactivation of, 190.
 — on broad bean in Turkey, 349.
 — on pea in Turkey, 349; Victoria, 591.
 —, *rabiei* on *Cicer arietinum* in Tanganyika Territory, 224.
 Ascomycetes, life-cycle and sexuality of, 387.
 —, list of, in U.S.A., 451.
 Ascu solution, use of, as a timber preservative, 52.

- Ash (*Fraxinus*), *Fomes fraxinophilus* and *Gloeosporium aridum* on, in U.S.A., 502.
- , *Pseudomonas fraxini* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *Puccinia peridermiospora* on, in U.S.A., 502.
- , *Schizophyllum commune* on, in France, 241.
- Asparagus sprengeri*, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- Aspergillus*, antibiotics from, 83.
- in soil in U.S.A., 511.
- on asphalt treated paper, 253.
- on groundnut in Fiji, 9; U.S.A., 171.
- on leather in U.S.A., 251.
- on maize, stored in U.S.A., 17.
- on optical glass, control, 145.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- on timber, control, 546.
- , production of riboflavin by, 252.
- *amstelodami*, effect of relative humidity on spore germination in, 18.
- *candidus*, effect of relative humidity on spore germination in, 18.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
- — on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
- — on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146.
- *clavatus*, production of clavacin by, 203, 488.
- —, use of, as a test organism in proofing textiles, 148.
- *fischeri* on cotton textiles, 486.
- *flavipes*, effect of, on growth of *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228.
- — on cotton textiles, 486.
- *flavus*, effect of, on growth of *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228; of relative humidity on spore germination in, 18.
- — on cotton textiles, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
- — on nut meats, 250.
- — on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
- — on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146.
- —, production of kojic acid by, 488.
- *flavus-oryzae* on paper, control, 254.
- *fumigatus* on cotton textiles, 486.
- — on jute textiles in India, 378.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- — on paper, control, 254.
- *glaucus* on cotton textiles, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
- — on leather, 485.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
- — on nut meats, 250.
- — on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
- — on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146.
- —, variation in conidiophores of, 489.
- *luchuensis* on cotton textiles, 486.
- *nidulans*, antagonism of, to *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228.
- — on cotton textiles, 486.
- —, production of penicillin by, 253.
- *niger*, adaptive enzymes in, 535.
- —, antagonism of, to tobacco mosaic virus, 451.
- —, effect of DDT on, 143; of, on growth of *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228; of, on various media, 552; of relative humidity on spore germination in, 18.
- — on cork gaskets, control, 436.
- — on cotton textiles, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
- — on date palm in U.S.A., 431.
- [*Aspergillus niger*] on felt in U.S.A., 147.
- — on leather, 485; in U.S.A., 251.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- — on onion, 250.
- — on paint, technique for determining resistance to, 251.
- — on textiles, control, 330.
- — on vegetable fibre gaskets, 436.
- — on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
- —, production of pectase and pectinase by, 490.
- —, toxicity of propylene glycol aerosol to, 249.
- —, use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 142, 143, 287, 367; in estimating soil fertility, 93; in proofing textiles, 148, 438.
- —, water loss from cultures of, 148.
- *ochraceus* on cotton textiles, 486.
- — on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
- *oryzae*, effect of DDT on, 143.
- — on cotton textiles, 486.
- — on nut meats, 250.
- — on paint, technique for determining resistance to, 251.
- (?) *parasiticus* on mealybugs in U.S.A., 132.
- *penicilloides* on cotton textiles in New Guinea, 487.
- *quadri-lineatus*, production of penicillin by, 253.
- *repens*, variation in conidiophores of, 489.
- *rugulosus*, production of penicillin by, 253.
- *sydowi* and *A. tamarii* on cotton textiles, 486.
- *terreus*, effect of, on growth of *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228.
- — on cotton textiles, 486.
- — on leather in U.S.A., 251.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- *unguis* on cotton textiles, 486.
- *ustus* on cotton textiles, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
- — var. *laevis* on cotton textiles, 486.
- *versicolor* on cotton textiles, 486.
- — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- — on paper, control, 254.
- — and *A. wehmeri*, variation in conidiophores of, 489.
- *wentii* on cotton textiles, 486.
- Asperisporium caricae* on papaw in Brazil, 100.
- Asporales, taxonomy of, 513.
- Aster (*Callistephus chinensis*), *Botrytis cinerea* and *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 511.
- , *Fusarium conglomerans* var. *callistephi* on, in U.S.A., 567; control, 23.
- , *Phoma* on, in U.S.A., 511.
- , *Stemphylium* on, in U.S.A., 567.
- yellows virus on aster, transmission of, by *Macrosteles divisis*, *Cloanthanus dubius*, *C. irroratus*, and *Euscelis maculipennis*, 353.
- — on carrot in Canada, 554; U.S.A., 107.
- — transmission of, by *Macrosteles divisis*, 107.
- — — on celery, transmission of, by *Cloanthanus irroratus* and *C. dubius*, 353; *Colladonus comissus*, *C. geminatus*, and *C. montanus*, 592; *Euscelis maculipennis*, 353; *Friscanarus rupinatus* var. *brunneus* and *Idiodonuss heidemanni*, 592; *Macrosteles divisis*, 353.
- — — on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- — — on onion in U.S.A., 212.
- Astragalus sinicus*, *Epicoccum sinense* on, previously identified as *Cymadothea trifolii*, 258.
- Atriplex bracteosa*, *A. patula* var. *hastata* and *A. rosea*, beet mosaic virus can infect, 345.
- Atropa belladonna*, potato virus X on, 263.

- Aurantia*, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 407.
- Auricularia auricula-judae* on tea, 260.
- Avena*, see oats.
- Avocado pear (*Persea americana*), (?) *Melanops perseae* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on, in Peru, 255, 327; U.S.A., 31, 483; control, 483; factors affecting, 327, 576; forms of, 327.
- Azalea, see *Rhododendron*.
- Azotobacter vinelandii*, toxicity of *Actinomyces* to, 41.
- Bacillus*, cytology of, 414.
- on optical glass, control, 145.
- , taxonomy of, 512.
- *carotovorus* synonym of *Pectobacterium carotovorum*, 514.
- *cereus*, flagellation and motility in, 225.
- *lentimorbus*, culture of, 19.
- *polymyxa* on chilli in Palestine, 458.
- *popilliae*, distribution of, by fertilizer spreader, 363.
- on *Cyclocephala borealis* in U.S.A., 363.
- on *Popillia japonica* in U.S.A., 363; culture of, 19.
- *subtilis*, antagonism of, to tobacco necrosis virus, 451; to *Xanthomonas translucens* and other bacteria, 357.
- Bacteria, antagonism of, to *Fusarium vasinfectum*, 177.
- , destruction of, by *Dictyostelium*, 154.
- , effect of, on *Fusarium culmorum*, 241; of diffusates of, on tobacco, 263.
- , flagellation and motility in, 225.
- in the air in the Arctic, 248.
- on potato, 293; in Finland, 579.
- , physiology of, 514.
- , relation between virulence and other properties of, and meteorological conditions, 123.
- , review of thermophilic, 177.
- , 'rhizosphere effect' in relation to the amino acid nutrition of, 41.
- , taxonomy of, 512.
- , variation in, 10.
- Bacteriaceae, taxonomy of, 513.
- Bacterial cell, submicroscopic structure of, 276.
- diseases of *Cyclamen* in France, 236.
- of *Sorghum saccharatum* in Queensland, 19.
- Bacterium*, antagonism between *Ceratostomella ulmi* and, 300.
- , cytology of, 414.
- in wood pulp, production of fungicidal substance by, 105.
- , taxonomy of, 512.
- *amylobacter*, physiology of, 515.
- *beticola* synonym of *Xanthomonas beticola*, 513.
- *belle* synonym of *Pseudomonas belle*, 513.
- *coli*, antagonism of some Basidiomycetes to, 438.
- , flagellation and motility in, 225.
- *diefenbachiae* synonym of *Xanthomonas dieffenbachiae*, 513.
- *dissolvens* synonym of *Aerobacter dissolvens*, 514.
- *gummisudans* synonym of *Xanthomonas gummisudans*, 513.
- *gypsophilae* synonym of *Agrobacterium gypsophilae*, 513.
- *heteroecum* synonym of *Xanthomonas heteroecum*, 513.
- *ligustri* synonym of *Pseudomonas ligustri*, 513.
- [*Bacterium*] *lycopersicum* synonym of *Pseudomonas lycopersicum*, 513.
- *malvacearum* on cotton, see *Xanthomonas malvacearum* under Cotton.
- *mangiferae* on mango in S. Africa, 31.
- *marginatum* on *Gladialus* in Argentina, 364; Queensland, 421; Rumania, 275; U.S.A., 567; control, 422.
- synonym of *Pseudomonas marginata*, 513.
- *matthiolae* synonym of *Pseudomonas matthiolae*, 513.
- *mori* synonym of *Pseudomonas mori*, 513.
- , toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 356.
- *panici* synonym of *Xanthomonas panici*, 513.
- *primulae* synonym of *Pseudomonas primulae*, 513.
- *pseudotsugae* synonym of *Agrobacterium pseudotsugae*, 513.
- *pyocyaneum*, physiology of, 515.
- *radiobacter*, flagellation and motility in, 225.
- *raphanoticum* synonym of *Xanthomonas raphanoticum*, 513.
- *rhizogenes*, flagellation and motility in, 225.
- on apple, geographical distribution of, 96.
- synonym of *Agrobacterium rhizogenes*, 513.
- *tardicrescens* synonym of *Agrobacterium tardicrescens*, 513.
- *tomato* synonym of *Pseudomonas tomato*, 513.
- *tumefaciens*, antagonism of *Bacillus subtilis* to, 357.
- , effect of streptomycin on, 556.
- , flagellation and motility in, 225.
- , inactivation of, 190.
- on apple, geographical distribution of, 96.
- on blackberry in U.S.A., 466.
- on *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, control, 276.
- on cherry in New S. Wales, 27; control, 276; geographical distribution of, 96.
- on *Cupressus arizonica* in U.S.A., 545.
- on *Ligustrum lucidum* and pear, control, 276.
- on plum in U.S.A., 372; control, 276; geographical distribution of, 96.
- on *Prunus salicina* and *Ricinus communis*, 276.
- on *Rubus procerus*, anatomical study on, 67.
- on tobacco in Italy, 102.
- on tomato, control, 276.
- , physiology of, 515.
- , study on, 177, 178.
- synonym of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, 513.
- , transmissible lysins for, 413.
- Balaninus nucum* in relation to *Botrytis cinerea* and *Sclerotinia fructigena* on *Corylus avellana*, 266.
- Bamboo (*Bambusa*, *Dendrocalamus*, *Phyllostachys*), *Phyllachora maculans* on, in China, 258.
- Bambusa*, see Bamboo.
- Banana (*Musa* spp.) bunchy top virus in Ceylon, 556; Fiji, 9; effect of, on yield, 9; (?) identical with abaca bunchy top virus, 22.
- *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on, in Brazil, 100; geographical distribution of, 96.
- *Chlamydomyces palmarum* on, in the Belgian Congo, 122.
- *Corticium solani* on, in New S. Wales, 77.
- *Fusarium oxysporum* var. *cubense* on, in Brazil, 77, 100; New S. Wales, 76; Queensland, 221; study on, 533; technique for diagnosing, 221; varietal reaction to, 76, 77.

- [Banana], *Helminthosporium torulosum* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Mycosphaerella musicola* on, in Africa, 572; British Honduras, 412; (?) in Fiji, 9.
- , *Pythium* on, in New S. Wales, 77.
- , *Stachylidium theobromae* on, in Brazil, 100; Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- transport diseases in Fiji, 9.
- Barbak C, use of, as a seed treatment for maize, 120, 278, 356.
- Barberry (*Berberis* and *Mahonia*), *Cumminsia sanguinea* on, in Rumania, 274.
- , *Puccinia graminis* on, in Iran, 227.
- Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), *Ascochyta graminicola* on, in Turkey, 349.
- , *Calonectria graminicola* on, in U.S.A., 179.
- , *Claviceps purpurea* on, 314; in U.S.A., 558.
- , *Colletotrichum graminicola* can infect, 526.
- diseases in Persia, 352.
- , effect of chaff on mould growth in seeds of, 277.
- , *Erysiphe graminis* on, in Argentina, 67; breeding against, 15, 561; varietal reaction to, 15, 359.
- , *Fusarium culmorum* on, in U.S.A., 179.
- , *Gibberella zeae* on, in U.S.A., 179; breeding against, 15.
- , *Helminthosporium gramineum* on, in Argentina, 67; Great Britain, 127; Morocco, 557; U.S.S.R., 13; breeding against, 15; control, 13; genetics of, 231; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 15.
- , *sativum* on, in Argentina, 67; Morocco, 557; U.S.A., 179, 511; breeding against, 231.
- , *teres* on, varietal reaction to, 15.
- , *Leptosphaeria avenaria* f. sp. *triticea* on, in Canada, 230; *Septoria avenae* f. sp. *triticea* imperfect state of, 230.
- , maize streak virus on, in S. Africa, 351.
- , *Ophiobolus graminis* on, 559; in England, 418; U.S.A., 179; control, 180; factors affecting, 418.
- , phosphorus deficiency in, in Denmark, 410.
- , physiological disorder of, in England, 182.
- , *Puccinia* on, in Iran, 227.
- , *glumarum* on, in Bulgaria, 376; Turkey, 114; morphology of, 518.
- , *graminis* on, in Canada, 553; Turkey, 114; breeding against, 15, 561; genetics of, 231.
- , *hordei* on, in New S. Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, 316; breeding against, 15, 561.
- , *triticea* on, in India, 517.
- , *Pyrenophora teres* on, in Argentina, 67.
- , *Pythium graminicola* on, in U.S.A., 179.
- , *Rhynchosporium secalis* on, in Argentina, 67; Turkey, 349; breeding against, 15.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in U.S.A., 179.
- , *Tilletia panicis* on, in U.S.S.R., 11.
- , *Ustilago hordei* on, in Great Britain, 127; Turkey, 115; breeding against, 15; factors affecting, 467; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 15, 224.
- , *nigra* on, 468; varietal reaction to, 15.
- , *nuda* on, 468; in Canada, 316; Denmark, 410; Turkey, 115; U.S.S.R., 13; breeding against, 15, 119; control, 13, 316; varietal reaction to, 15, 119, 126, 224.
- Basicop, use of, against *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on peach, 76.
- Basidiobolus haptosporus* in soil in U.S.A., 159.
- Basidiomycete on *Aconitum* in Canada, 527.
- on *Agropyron repens* in Canada, 527.
- on *Agrostis alba* in Canada, 325.
- on clover in Canada, 325, 526.
- [Basidiomycete] on dandelion in Canada, 527.
- on *Festuca elatior* and *F. rubra* in Canada, 325.
- on grasses in Canada, 526.
- on iris in Canada, 325, 527.
- on lucerne in Canada, 325, 526.
- on parsnip in Canada, 527.
- on *Phleum pratense* in Canada, 325.
- on phlox in Canada, 527.
- on *Poa pratensis* in Canada, 325.
- on *Thymus serpyllum* in Canada, 527.
- Basidiomycetes, classification of, 249.
- , list of, in U.S.A., 451.
- , toxicity of, to *Staphylococcus aureus*, 252.
- , variation in size and shape of spores, basidia, and cystidia in, 249.
- Bean, broad (*Vicia faba*), *Ascochyta pinodella* and *A. pisi* on, in Turkey, 349.
- , —, *Botrytis cinerea* on, in England, 56, 462.
- , —, *fabae* on, 56, 462; in Turkey, 349.
- , —, *Cercospora fabae* on, in Spain, 114.
- , —, *zonata* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , —, *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , —, *trifolii* on, 125.
- , —, *Corticium sasakii* on, factors affecting, 447.
- , —, disease of, in Cyprus, 556.
- , —, *Fusarium avenaceum* var. *fabae* on, in China, 550; transmission of, to pea and vetch, 551.
- , —, *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in Sardinia, 552.
- , —, potassium deficiency in, in England, 57, 462.
- , —, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* var. *fabae* on, 283.
- , —, *Uromyces fabae* on, in England, 57, 462; New Zealand, 116; Tanganyika Territory, 158; Turkey, 114; control, 116.
- , —, wilt virus in Victoria, 5; host range of, 5; varietal reaction to, 6.
- , French and Runner (*Phaseolus* spp.), *Ascochyta blightwasteri* and *A. phaseolorum* on, in Holland, 456.
- , —, bacterial flora of, 293.
- , —, beet curly top virus on, in U.S.A., 56; breeding against, 119.
- , —, *Cercosporina kikuchii* on, in U.S.A., 404.
- , —, *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* on, in Holland, 456; U.S.A., 510; control, 288, 435; 591; factors affecting, 457; varietal reaction to, 456.
- , —, *truncatum* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , —, *Corticium sasakii* on, factors affecting, 447.
- , —, *solani* on, 304; in U.S.A., 65, 346, 510; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , —, *Corynebacterium flaccumfaciens* on, in Yugoslavia, 6.
- , —, cotton 'lightning' wilt on, in U.S.S.R., 475.
- , —, damping-off of, control, 53.
- , —, *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- , —, *Dolichos enation* mosaic virus can infect, 310.
- , —, *Erysiphe polygoni* on, in U.S.A., 56; control, 248, 288.
- , —, *Fusarium* on, in Canada, 55.
- , —, *Isariopsis griseola* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 159; Turkey, 351.

- [Bean, French and Runner], *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in Canada, 55; Italy, 551; U.S.A., 65.
- , —, manganese excess in, 337.
- , —, mosaic virus on bean in Holland, 456; U.S.A., 56; Victoria, 591; breeding against, 119; control, 591; varietal reaction to, 56, 119, 456.
- , —, —, southern, on bean, purification of, 107; technique for measuring virus activity of, 403.
- , —, *Peronospora manshurica* on, in U.S.A., 404.
- , —, *Phaseolus lunatus* mosaic virus can infect, 550.
- , —, *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* on, in U.S.A., 185.
- , —, *Polyporus schweinitzii* can infect, 546.
- , —, potassium deficiency in, in England, 462.
- , —, *Pseudomonas medicaginis* var. *phaseolica* on, in Holland, 456; New Zealand, 116; Yugoslavia, 6; control, 116, 591; factors affecting, 124, 457; inactivation of, 189; seed certification against, 343; toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to 356; varietal reaction to, 116, 456.
- , —, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- , —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47; U.S.A., 65.
- , —, seed certification in Victoria, 591.
- , —, *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, susceptibility to, 125.
- , —, tobacco necrosis virus can infect, 22.
- , —, top necrosis virus in U.S.A., 5; transmission of, to cowpea, *Crotalaria intermedia*, *C. spectabilis*, cucumber, *Cyamopsis psoraloides*, lupin, *Melilotus indica*, pea, *Phaseolus coccineus*, *P. lunatus*, soy-bean, tobacco, and vetch, 5.
- , —, *Uromyces appendiculatus* on, in Canada, 554; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 56, 170; control, 248; physiologic races of, 170; varietal reaction to, 56, 170; water loss from, 149.
- , —, *Xanthomonas phaseoli* on, in Brazil, 122; Yugoslavia, 6; control, 591.
- , —, — var. *fuscans* on, in U.S.A., 510.
- Beauveria bassiana* on *Bombyx mori*, *Doru linearia*, *Stephanoderes hampei*, and *Thrips* in Brazil, 100.
- Beech (*Fagus*), *Polyporus obtusus* on, in North America, 266.
- Beer, *Saccharomyces pastorianus* in, 250.
- Beet (*Beta vulgaris*), *Aphanomyces cochlioides* on, in U.S.A., 3, 4, 402.
- black root in Canada, 304; U.S.A., 4.
- , boron deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , *Cercospora beticola* on, in Germany, 212; Madagascar, 81; Switzerland, 220; Turkey, 350; breeding against, 1; control, 220; factors affecting, 212; varietal reaction to, 1, 225.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 4, 304, 344; host range of, 304.
- , crinkle disease in Germany, 456; transmission of, by *Pisma quadratum*, 456.
- , curly top virus on bean in U.S.A., 56; breeding against, 119.
- , —, — on beet, breeding against, 1; effect of different strains of, on the host, 213; transmission of, by *Eutettix tenellus*, 344; varietal reaction to, 1.
- , —, — on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- , —, — on flax in U.S.A., 235.
- [Beet curly top virus] on tomato, breeding against, 118, 224.
- , damping-off of, in Sweden, 456; U.S.A., 2, 4; control, 53, 456; factors affecting, 4.
- , diseases in Germany, breeding against, 248.
- , *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 2, 402; pathogenicity of, 402.
- , *Helicobasidium purpureum* on, in Turkey, 351.
- , *Macrosporium* on, in U.S.A., 402.
- , manganese deficiency in, in Denmark, 410; control, 583.
- , mosaic virus can infect *Atriplex bracteosa*, *A. patula* var. *hastata*, *A. rosea*, *Chenopodium album*, *C. murale*, and *Salsola kali* var. *tenuifolia*, 345.
- , — in U.S.A., host range of, 270; transmission of, by *Aphis fabae*, *Brevicoryne brassicae*, 270; *Myzus persicae*, 54, 270.
- , — on fodder crops in Denmark, 410.
- , *Peronospora schachtii* on, varietal reaction to, 224.
- , *Phoma* on, in U.S.A., 402.
- , — *betae* on, 550; in U.S.A., 3, 4, 344; control, 3, 4; factors affecting, 3, 4, 344; pathogenicity of, 403.
- , *Phytophthora* on, in U.S.A., 2.
- , *Pythium* on, in Austria, 208; U.S.A., 4, 402.
- , — *ultimum* on, in U.S.A., 2, 344.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, in Malaya, 464; U.S.A., 402.
- , root rot in U.S.A., 3.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , seedling diseases, control, 1.
- , *Uromyces betae* on, in (?) Canary and Madeira Islands, 586; Rumania, 387; Turkey, 114; varietal reaction to, 225.
- , virus diseases, legislation against, in England and Wales, 448.
- , yellows virus on beet in Belgium, 106, 345; breeding against, 211; effect of, on yield, 169; factors affecting, 169; transmission of, by *Aphis fabae*, 107; *Myzus persicae*, 107, 211; (?) seed, 211, 345; to spinach, 211; types of, 212.
- , — on fodder crops in Denmark, 410.
- , — on mangold, 211.
- Beetle, *Cordyceps salebrosa* on, in Panama Canal Zone, 235.
- Begonia*, *Erysiphe polyphaga* on, in Sweden, 422; *Oidium begoniae* imperfect state of, 422.
- Bemisia gossypiperda* transmitting *Phaseolus lunatus* mosaic virus, 550; tobacco leaf curl virus, 544, 578.
- *tabaci* transmitting tomato 'smalling disease', 203.
- Bentonite, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 407.
- Benzaldehyde, use of, with mercuric chloride against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.
- Benzene, use of, against *Peronospora parasitica* on cabbage, 269; *P. tabacina* on tobacco, 275.
- hexachloride, use of, with basic copper sulphate, 331; with fungicides, 581.
- sulphonamide, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
- Berberis*, see *Barberry*.
- Beta vulgaris*, see Beet and Mangold.
- var. *cicla*, see Chard.
- Betel, see *Piper betle*.
- Betoxin, use of, as a seed treatment for hemp, 421.
- Betula*, see Birch.
- Bilberry, see *Vaccinium*.

- Birch (*Betula*), *Ciboria betulae* on, in Denmark, 498.
- die-back, 555; in U.S.A., 50; virus-like symptoms in, 50.
- , *Fomes igniarius* on, in U.S.A., 502.
- Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.), *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, in U.S.A., 466.
- , *Kuehneola uredinis* on, in S. Africa, 144; U.S.A., 532; possible eradication of host by, 144.
- , *Leptosphaeria coniothyrium* on, in U.S.A., 512.
- Black leaf 40, use of, against celery calico virus and western cucumber mosaic virus, 324.
- Blakesleea trispora*, conservation of cultures of, 329.
- Bleaching powder, use of, against *Gloeodes pomigena* on orange, 522.
- Blueberry, see *Vaccinium*.
- Boletaceae in China, study on, 498.
- Boletus bovinus* on pine, forming mycorrhiza in England, 548; toxicity of, to *Pullularia pullulans*, 211.
- Bombax buonopozense*, cacao swollen shoot virus can infect, 516.
- Bombyx mori*, *Beauveria bassiana* on, in Brazil, 100.
- Borassus flabellifer*, see Palmyra palm.
- Borax, use of, against boron deficiency in crops, 196; pea, 506; turnip, 505; against lettuce tipburn, 170; as a timber preservative, 52, 547.
- Bordeaux mixture, constitution of, 247; effect of, on ascorbic acid content of tomato juice, 453.
- , injury to apple, 529; cabbage, 223; citrus, 351; cucumber, 31; pear, 429; potato, 31, 39, 331; tomato, 31; vine, 437.
- Boric acid, use of, against boron deficiency in apple, 242; against *Penicillium* on potato, 152; *Xanthomonas juglandis* on walnut, 590.
- Boron deficiency in apple in (?) England, 242; Finland, 337; Switzerland, 530; apricot in Canberra, 22; beet, celery, and clover in Finland, 337; crops in Canada and U.S.A., 196; fruit trees in U.S.A., 424; mustard in Finland, 337; pea in Canada, 506; pear in Switzerland, 530; swede in Finland, 337; tobacco in Italy, 201; turnip in Canada, 505; Finland, 337.
- in relation to plant nutrition, 42.
- Botrychium lunaria*, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
- Botryodiplodia theobromae* on cacao in Brazil, 226.
- on cotton textiles, 487.
- on groundnut in U.S.A., 171; imperfect state of *Physalospora rhodina*, 171.
- on lime in the Gold Coast, 509.
- on tea, 260.
- Botryosphaeria ribis* on vine in U.S.A., 409; *Macrophoma* imperfect state of, 409.
- Botrytis* on *Eucalyptus* in Kenya, 312.
- on fig in England, 462.
- on flax, 20.
- on lupin in U.S.A., 126.
- on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- , toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 357.
- *allii*, effect of glutinosis on, 146; trichothecin on, 437.
- on onion in Brazil, 122; England, 462; Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , use of antibiotics against, 83; as a test organism in assaying fungicides, 440.
- *anthophila* on clover in U.S.A., 479.
- *byssoidae* on onion in England, 462.
- [*Botrytis*] *cinerea*, control of, 484.
- , effect of, on media, 552; of patulin on, 83.
- on apple, 368.
- on aster in U.S.A., 511.
- on broad bean in England, 56, 462.
- on *Corylus avellana* in England, 266; *Balaninus nucum* in relation to, 266.
- on currant, 189.
- on *Cyclamen* in U.S.A., 324.
- on flax in Eire, 235.
- on food, 250.
- (?) — on *Gladiolus* in U.S.A., 476, 567.
- on lettuce in England, 108.
- on lupin in U.S.A., 66, 126.
- on peach in Rumania, 274.
- on plum, 188.
- on rose in Brazil, 100.
- on *Satureia* in England, 111.
- on strawberry, 250; in U.S.A., 374, 430.
- on sunflower in Rumania, 423.
- (?) — on vetch in U.S.A., 66.
- on vine in Queensland, 221; Switzerland, 272.
- on wheat in England, 462.
- , physiology of, 490.
- , production of pectase and pectinase by, 490.
- , toxicity of musarin to, 483.
- , use of, as a test organism in assaying fungicides, 434.
- , water loss from cultures of, 148.
- *fabae* on broad bean in England, 56, 462; Turkey, 349.
- *paconiae* on peony in Canada, 555; Czechoslovakia, 423; transmission of, by ants, 423.
- *tulipae* on tulip in Rumania, 274; U.S.A., 512.
- Bougainvillea*, *Armillaria mellea* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- Bouisol, use of, against *Puccinia graminis* on wheat, 358.
- Bouteloua oligostachya*, *Corticium solani* on, 187.
- Box (*Buxus*), *Gloeosporium pachybasium* on, in Spain, 386.
- Boysenberry (*Rubus ursinus* var. *loganobaccus*), magnesium deficiency in, in S. Africa, 140; control, 141.
- , potassium excess in, in S. Africa, 141.
- Brachychiton populneum*, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in Argentina, 204.
- Brachypodium*, *Puccinia glumarum* on, in Iran, 227.
- Brachysporium* on cotton textiles, 487.
- on rice in Formosa, 446.
- Brassica juncea*, see Mustard, Chinese.
- *napobrassica*, see Swede.
- *napus* var. *oleifera*, see Rape.
- *nigra*, see Mustard.
- *oleracea*, see Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower.
- var. *acephala*, see Kale.
- var. *caulo-rapa*, see Kohlrabi.
- *pekinensis*, see Cabbage, Chinese.
- *rapa*, see Turnip.
- Bread, *Mucor mucedo*, *Penicillium*, and *Rhizopus stolonifer* on, 250.
- Breadfruit (*Artocarpus communis*), *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- Bremia lactucae* on artichoke in England, 462.
- on lettuce in England, 108; Rumania, 274.
- on *Sonchus oleraceus* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- Brevicoryne brassicae* transmitting beet mosaic virus, 270.

- Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea*), *Phoma lingam* on, 306; control, 343.
- , *Xanthomonas campestris* on, control, 343.
- Bromus*, *Puccinia bromina* on, morphology of, 518.
- , — *glumarum* on, in Iran, 227; morphology of, 518.
- *inermis*, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 558.
- , *Corticium solani* can infect, 304.
- , *Fusarium arthrosporioides*, *F. culmorum*, *F. equiseti*, *F. oxysporum*, *F. scirpi* var. *acuminatum*, *F. solani*, *Helminthosporium sativum*, *Pythium debaryanum*, and *P. ultimum* on, in Canada, 241.
- *marginatus*, *Ustilago bullata* on, physiologic races of, 240; varietal reaction to, 240.
- *sterilis*, *Ophiobolus graminis* on, in Australia, 559.
- Brussels sprouts (*Brassica oleracea*), *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 54.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- , *Phoma lingam* on, 306; control, 343.
- , *Pythium* on, in U.S.A., 54.
- , *Xanthomonas campestris* on, control, 343.
- Bryophyllum pinnatum*, *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, control, 276.
- BSE, use of, as a timber preservative, 268.
- Bulgaria inquinans* on oak in U.S.A., 502.
- Burgundy mixture, use of, against *Cercospora arachidicola* and *C. personata* on groundnut, 221; *Exobasidium vexans* on tea, 298.
- Burkholderiella*, taxonomy of, 513.
- *insidiosa*, *Corynebacterium insidiosum* synonym of, 513.
- Butter, microflora of, in India, 535.
- , *Oospora lactis* and *Rhizopus stolonifer* in, 250.
- , *Torula cremoris* and *T. sphaerica* in, 251.
- Buzus, see Box.
- Byssoschlamys fulva*, effect of glutinosis on, 146.
- , use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 142, 143, 247.
- Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*), *Alternaria brassicae* and *A. brassicicola* on, in Ceylon, 196.
- , *Alternaria oleracea* var. *tumida* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- black ring spot virus on cabbage and cauliflower in S. Africa, 352.
- , cauliflower mosaic virus on, varietal reaction to, 269.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 54; control, 54, 213.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 591; Trinidad, 223.
- , *Fusarium congrutinans* on, in U.S.A., 591.
- , manganese excess in, 93.
- , molybdenum deficiency in, control, 401.
- , mosaic virus in U.S.A., 269.
- , *Peronospora parasitica* on, in Trinidad, 223; U.S.A., 167, 269.
- , *Phoma lingam* on, in Spain, 114; U.S.A., 305; control, 343.
- , *Plasmodiophora brassicae* on, control, 213.
- , *Pythium* on, in U.S.A., 54; control, 54, 213.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, control, 126, 213.
- seed treatments, 399.
- , *Trichoderma* on, in U.S.A., 126.
- , turnip mosaic virus on, inhibition of, by spinach extracts, 58; varietal reaction to, 269.
- , *Xanthomonas campestris* on, in Queensland, 221, 399; Trinidad, 223; U.S.A., 175, 402; control, 223, 343, 399, 402; factors affecting, 221; geographical distribution of, 96.
- [Cabbage], Chinese (*Brassica pekinensis*), *Alternaria brassicae* on, in Ceylon, 196.
- , —, *Cercospora brassicicola* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- , —, *Phoma lingam* on, in U.S.A., 305.
- Cacao (*Theobroma cacao*), *Botryodiplodia theobromae* on, in Brazil, 226.
- , *Nectectria rigidiuscula* on, in Madagascar, 80; West Africa, 516.
- , *Cephaleuros mycoidea* and *Corticium salmonicolor* on, in Brazil, 226.
- die-back in Ceylon, 555.
- , *Ganoderma pseudosferreum* on, in Malaya, 464.
- , *Glomerella cingulata* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Marasmius perniciosus* on, in Tobago, 223.
- , *Nectria cacaicola* on, in Madagascar, 80.
- , *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in Brazil, 226, 414; India, 159; Tanganyika Territory, 158; control, 226, 414; oospore formation in, 159.
- swollen shoot virus on cacao in Central Africa, 376; the Gold Coast, 178, 508, 557; the Ivory Coast, 557; West Africa, 515; control, 508, 516; strains of, 515; transmission of, by *Ferrisia virgata*, 515; *Pseudococcus citri*, 516, 557; *P. njalensis*, 515, 516, 557; to *Bombax buonopozense*, 516.
- — — — on *Cola chlamydantha*, 516, 557.
- — — — on *Theobroma bicolor*, 516, 557.
- virus 1 A in the Gold Coast, 178, 179.
- — 1 B in the Gold Coast, 178, 179; transmission of, by *Ferrisia virgata* and *Pseudococcus njalensis*, 178.
- — 1 C in the Gold Coast, 178, 179; transmission of, by *Pseudococcus citri*, 178.
- — 1 D in the Gold Coast, 179; transmission of, by *Pseudococcus citri* and *P. njalensis*, 179.
- virus disease in Trinidad, 222.
- Cadmium ethylenediaminodithiocarbamate, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
- furfural, use of, against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.
- naphthenate, use of, in rot-proofing textiles, 116.
- Caffaro powder, use of, against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.
- Cajanus cajan* and *C. indicus*, see Pigeon pea.
- Calamagrostis*, *Puccinia glumarum* on, morphology of, 518.
- Calcium chloride, use of, against peach X-disease virus, 532.
- cyanamide, use of, against *Pseudoperonospora humuli* on hops, 174; *Thielaviopsis basicola* on tobacco, 340; as a soil disinfectant, 125; for destroying potato haulms, 150.
- deficiency in grapefruit and orange in U.S.A., 520; potato in England, 195; swede, 93.
- 8-hydroxyquinolate, use of, against peach X-disease virus, 532.
- propionate, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
- thiosulphate, use of, against manganese deficiency in beet, oats, and peas, 583-4.
- Caldesia sabina* on *Juniperus* in Spain, 386.
- Calendula arvensis*, *Entyloma calendulae* on, in Turkey, 115.
- *officinalis*, *Coleosporium calendulae* on, in Argentina, 45.
- , —, cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , —, *Entyloma* (?) *calendulae* on, in Europe, 101.
- , —, — *compositarum* on, in U.S.A., 101.
- , —, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , —, *Puccinia flaveriae* on, in U.S.A., 525.

- Calogreen, use of, against *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476.
- Calonectria* on *Crotalaria anagyroides* in Ceylon, 297.
- *graminicola*, host range of, in U.S.A., 499.
- on barley in U.S.A., 179.
- on cereals in Sweden, 417.
- on oats in U.S.A., 359.
- on rye in Sweden, 416.
- on wheat in U.S.A., 179.
- *nevalis* on cereals and grasses in Sweden, 518.
- *rigidiuscula* on cacao in Madagascar, 80; West Africa, 516.
- Camellia*, *Cephaleuros mycoidea*, *Diplodia*, *Exobasidium camelliae*, *Gloeosporium*, *Pestalotia*, *Phomopsis*, and *Phyllosticta* (?) *camelliae* on, in U.S.A., 126.
- , *Phyllosticta camelliaeicola* var. *meranensis* on, in England, 78.
- , *Rhizoctonia* and ring-spot virus on, in U.S.A., 126.
- *sinensis*, see Tea.
- Camparula medium*, *Ascochyta bohemica* on, in England, 79.
- Camphor* (*Cinnamomum camphora*), *Microsphaera alni* var. *cinnamomi* on, in U.S.A., 450.
- Campomansia aurea*, *Puccinia psidii* on, in Brazil, 122.
- Canariella pastinacae* transmitting potato virus Y, 334.
- Canavalia ensiformis*, *Phaseolus lunatus* mosaic virus on, 550.
- Cancrosis B disease of citrus, legislation against, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and U.S.A., 352.
- Candida* on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- Canna* mosaic virus in Fiji, 9; U.S.A., 364; transmission of, by *Aphis gossypii*, *A. maidis*, *Macrosiphum solanifolii*, *Myzus circumflexus*, and *M. persicae*, 364; to *Musa textilis*, 364.
- *coccinea*, *Ascochyta cannae* on, in Brazil, 122.
- Cannabis sativa*, see Hemp.
- Cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo* var. *cantaloupina*), *Alternaria* (?) *cucumerinum* on, in U.S.A., 66.
- , *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, in U.S.A., 66, 308.
- , *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on, in U.S.A., 66; varietal reaction to, 313.
- Capitophorus fragariae* transmitting strawberry viruses, 140.
- Capnodium* on tea, 260.
- *salicinum* on vine in Spain, 114.
- Capsella bursa-pastoris*, beet mosaic virus on, 270.
- Capsicum annuum*, *C. baccatum*, *C. frutescens* and their varieties, and *C. minimum*, see Chilli.
- Caragana arborescens*, *Septoria caraganae* and *Uromyces genistae-tinctoriae* on, in Rumania, 387.
- Caraway (*Carum carvi*), *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- Carbolineum, use of, against *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on cherry, 428; *Venturia inaequalis* and *V. pirina*, 428; as a timber preservative, 208, 209; with copper oxychloride, 273.
- Avenarius, use of, as a timber preservative, 209.
- Carex*, *Ustilaginales* on, taxonomy of, 46.
- Carica papaya*, see Papaw.
- Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*), *Heteropatella rattellinensis* on, in Canada, 555.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *Uromyces dianthi* on, control, 288.
- Carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*), *Cercospora ceratoniae* and *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* on, in Italy, 528.
- [Carob tree], *Fomes igniarius*, *Oidium ceratoniae*, and *Polyporus sulphureus* var. *ceratoniae* on, 25.
- Carrot (*Daucus carota*), *Alternaria dauci* on, in Ceylon, 555; Queensland, 221.
- , — *radicina* on, in Bulgaria, 399.
- , aster yellows virus on, in Canada, 554; U.S.A., 107; transmission of, by *Macrosteles divinus*, 107.
- , celery mosaic virus on, in U.S.A., 459.
- , damping-off of, control, 53.
- 'dwarf' virus disease in Canada, 554.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- , *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* on, in U.S.A., 185.
- , *Plasmopara nivea* on, in England, 462.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498; U.S.S.R., 57.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *Xanthomonas carotae* on, in U.S.A., 506.
- Carthamus tinctorius*, see Safflower.
- Carum carvi*, see Caraway.
- Carya*, *Polyporus obtusus* on, in North America, 266.
- *pecan*, see Pecan.
- Cassava (*Manihot utilissima*) brown streak virus in East Africa, 63.
- die-back in Dutch E. Indies, 457.
- , *Fusarium aqueductum* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Gibberella zeae* and *Haplographium manihoticola* on, in Brazil, 122.
- mosaic virus in Central Africa, 376; East Africa, 63; Madagascar, 79.
- , *Oidium manihotis* on, in Brazil, 122.
- Castanea*, see Chestnut.
- Castor, see *Ricinus communis*.
- Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Trichosporium vesiculosum* on, in Ceylon, 555.
- Cattle, toxicity of *Claviceps paspali* to, in Turkey, 423.
- Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea*), cabbage black ring spot virus on, in S. Africa, 352.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- , *Matthiola incana* var. *annua* mosaic can infect, 114.
- , molybdenum deficiency in, control, 401.
- mosaic virus on cabbage, varietal reaction to, 269.
- , *Phoma lingam* on, 306; control, 343.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- 'whiptail' disease in New S. Wales, 400.
- , *Xanthomonas campestris* on, in Queensland, 399; control, 343, 399.
- Cedrela*, *Phyllachora balansiae* and *Pseudobeltrania cedrela* on, in Peru, 542.
- Celcure, use of, as a timber preservative, 268.
- Celery (*Apium graveolens*), aster yellows virus on, transmission of, by *Cloanthus irroratus* and *C. dubius*, 353; *Colladonus* spp., 592; *Euscelis maculipennis*, 353; *Friscanus rupinatus* var. *brunneus* and *Idiodonus heidemannii*, 592; *Macrosteles divinus*, 353.
- , boron deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- calico virus on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- — on pansy and *Viola cornuta* in U.S.A., 323; transmission of, by aphids, 323.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- mosaic virus on carrot and celery in U.S.A., 459.
- *Phoma apiicola* on, in Great Britain, 127; U.S.A., 108.

- [*Celery*], *Septoria apii* on, in Great Britain, 127; New Zealand, 116; Switzerland, 273; Turkey, 349; control, 59, 116, 273.
- , — *apii-graveolentis* on, 59.
- Centaurea orientalis* and *C. scabiosa*, *Cystopus tragopogi* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Cephaleros mycoidea* on cacao in Brazil, 226.
- on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
- and *C. parasiticus* on tea, 260.
- Cephalosporium* on *Empoasca flavescens* in the Philippines, 133.
- on soy-bean in U.S.A., 107.
- *acremonium* on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- on soy-bean in U.S.A., 213.
- *diospyri* on persimmon in U.S.A., 503.
- Ceratocarpus arenarius*, *Cystopus eurotiae* on, in Rumania and U.S.S.R., 543.
- Ceratonis siliqua*, see Carob tree.
- Ceratophorum setosum* on lupin in U.S.A., 525.
- Ceratostomella*, association of, with ambrosia, 565.
- on *Platanus* in U.S.A., 341.
- on timber, control, 546.
- *fimbriata* on *Crotalaria juncea* in Brazil, 185.
- on *Hevea* rubber in Malaya, 336.
- on sweet potato in Tobago, 223; U.S.A., 176; thiamin in relation to perithecial formation in, 405.
- *multiannulata*, physiological mutations in, 379.
- *paradoxa* on banana in Brazil, 100; geographical distribution of, 96.
- on pineapple, (?) 572; in Assam, 411; Brazil, 100; Queensland, 208, 221; control, 221, 375; geographical distribution of, 96; legislation against in Queensland, 208.
- on plantain in Brazil, 100.
- on sugar-cane in Mauritius, 44, 156, 386, 542; Queensland, 385; S. Africa, 157; control, 45, 156, 157, 386, 542; factors affecting, 44; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 45, 386, 542.
- , toxicity of musarin to, 483.
- , viability of, 534.
- *pini*, toxicity of patulin to, 83.
- *ulmi* on elm in Canada, 50, 256, 300, 555; England, 591; Holland, 166; Scotland, 591; Switzerland, 102; U.S.A., 63, 265, 301; antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 265; of bacteria to, 300; breeding against, 166; control, 63; legislation against in U.S.A., 256; specific reaction to, in Italy, 544; transmission of, by *Hylurgopinus rufipes*, 50, 301; *Scolytus multistriatus*, 64, 301; variation in, 301.
- on timber in U.S.S.R., 301.
- Cercis siliquastrum*, *Septoria cercidis* on, in Argentina, 186.
- Cercospora* on cut flowers, legislation against, in U.S.A., 208.
- on ornamental plants, control, 422.
- on sweet potato in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- on vine in Costa Rica, 461.
- *amethi* on *Peucedanum graveolens* in Rumania, 399; synonymy of, 400.
- *arachidicola* on groundnut in Queensland, 221; Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 66.
- *atricincta* on *Zinnia elegans* in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- *beticola* on beet in Germany, 212; Madagascar, 81; Switzerland, 220; Turkey, 350; breeding against, 1; control, 220; factors affecting, 212; varietal reaction to, 1, 225.
- *brassicicola* on Chinese cabbage and Chinese mustard in Ceylon, 197.
- [*Cercospora*] *canescens* on *Phaseolus lunatus* and *Voandzeia subterranea* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *cannabina* on hemp in China, 258.
- *capsici* (March. & Stey.) Kovač. synonym of *C. unamunoi*, 406.
- Unam. synonym of *C. unamunoi*, 406.
- *ceratoniae* on carob tree in Italy, 528.
- *circumscissa* on almond in Turkey, 350.
- *corchori* on jute in India, 524.
- *demetroniana* on *Crotalaria juncea* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *fabae* on broad bean in Spain, 114; synonym of *C. zonata*, 350.
- *fusimaculans* on *Eleusine coracana* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *longissima* on chicory in Turkey, 350.
- on lettuce in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *mangiferae* on mango in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *nicotianae*, host range of, in U.S.A., 65.
- on tobacco in Italy, 201; Southern Rhodesia, 200; control, 200; toxicity of antibiotics to, 202; varietal reaction to, 47.
- *oryzae* on rice in India, 314; varietal reaction to, 176.
- *personata* (*Mycosphaerella berkeleyi*) on groundnut in Madagascar, 80; Queensland, 221; S. Africa, 171; U.S.A., 66; control, 66, 221.
- *pueraricola* imperfect state of *Mycosphaerella pueraricola*, 479.
- *rhoiscorariae* on *Rhus coriaria* in France, 498.
- *smilacis* on *Smilax aspera* in France, 498.
- *sojina* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
- *thujina* on *Thuja* in U.S.A., 175.
- *unamunoi* on chilli in Abyssinia, 406; synonymy of, 406.
- *voandzeiae* on *Voandzeia subterranea* in Madagascar, 80.
- *zonata* on broad bean and vetch in Turkey, 350; *C. fabae* synonym of, 350.
- (?) *Cercosporella* on *Crotalaria anagyroides* in Ceylon, 297.
- *albomaculans* on radish in Argentina, 257.
- *brassicae* on radish, *Raphanus raphanistrum*, and mustard in Turkey, 350.
- on turnip in Ceylon, 197.
- *gossypii* imperfect state of *Mycosphaerella areola*, 100.
- *herptrichoides* on cereals in Morocco, 557; Sweden, 467; Switzerland, 220.
- on wheat in England, 278.
- *primulae* on *Primula juliae* and *P. wanda* in England, 79.
- *subulata* renamed *Spermospora subulata*, 527.
- *theae* on *Crotalaria usaramoensis* and *Tephrosia vogelii* in Ceylon, 297.
- Cercosporina kikuchii* on bean in U.S.A., 404.
- Cereals, *Calonectria graminicola* on, in Sweden, 417.
- , — *nivalis* on, in Sweden, 518.
- , *Cercosporella herptrichoides* on, in Morocco, 557; Sweden, 467; Switzerland, 220.
- , copper deficiency in, in Finland, 337; Western Australia, 517.
- , cotton 'lightning' wilt on, in U.S.S.R., 475.
- , diseases of, in Germany, breeding against, 248.
- , effect of chaff of, on germination of seeds and growth of moulds, 277.
- , *Erysiphe graminis* on, physiology of, 490.
- , fungi on, in Switzerland, 220.

- [Cereals], *Fusarium equiseti* and *F. scirpi* on, in U.S.A., 180.
- , *Gloeosporium bolleyi* on, in U.S.A., 366.
- , *Helminthosporium sativum* on, in Morocco, 557; U.S.A., 136.
- , *Ophiobolus graminis* on, 559; in Morocco, 557; Sweden, 467; Switzerland, 220.
- , *Puccinia graminis* on, in Canada, 553; U.S.A., 64, 414; Switzerland, 220; barberry eradication against, 64.
- , root rots of, in U.S.A., 136.
- , *Sclerotinia borealis* on, in Sweden, 416, 518.
- , *Sclerotium* on, in Morocco, 557.
- , *Typhula* on, in Sweden, 417, 518.
- , *Wojnowicia graminis* on, in Morocco, 557; U.S.A., 180.
- Cerebella* on *Claviceps paspali*, 24.
- andropogon on *Hyparrhenia rufa*, *Panicum maximum*, and *Paspalum plicatulum* in Brazil, 100.
- *volkensii* on sorghum in S. Africa, 351.
- Ceresan injury to narcissus, 512.
- , use of, against *Alternaria radicina* on carrot, 399; *A. solani* on tomato, 588; beet black root, 4; *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 386; *Claviceps purpurea*, 558; *Corticium solani* on bean, 65; damping-off of beet, 2; *Fusarium bulbigenum* on *Narcissus*, 422, 512; *Macrophomina phaseoli* on bean, 65; jute, 72; *Penicillium* on potato, 152; *Phoma betae* on beet, 3; *Pleospora calvescens* on opium poppy, 124; *Sclerotium rolfsii* on bean, 65; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 19; sugar-cane diseases, 156; as a seed treatment for crucifers, 343; for groundnut, 66; for *Hibiscus esculentus*, 347; peas, 213; *Peucedanum graveolens*, 399; as a soil disinfectant, 125.
- M. use of, against *Fusarium* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *Glomerella gossypii* on cotton, 523; *Helminthosporium victoriorum* on oats, 510; *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361; as a seed treatment for barley, flax, and oats, 574; *Ricinus communis*, 586; wheat, 574.
- M.S.F., use of, against *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361.
- , new improved, use of, against damping-off of beet, 2; *Fusarium* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *F. bulbigenum* on *Narcissus*, 423; *Helminthosporium victoriorum* on oats, 468, 510; mould fungi on seed in U.S.A., 511; pea root rots, 169; *Phoma betae* on beet, 3; *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361; *Ustilago avenae* and *U. kolleri* on oats, 468; as a seed treatment for beet, 2; cereals, 136; flax, 134; grasses, 136; *Hibiscus esculentus*, 347; rice, 381; soy-bean, 403.
- U. 564 and U.T. 1875A, use of, as a seed treatment for flax, 20.
- Cetyl pyridine chloride, bio-assay of, 434.
- Chaetocnema pulicaria* transmitting *Xanthomonas stewartii*, 70.
- Chaetomium* on paper, control, 254.
- on potato, antagonism of, to *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 293.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- , viability of, 534.
- *bostrichodes*, viability of, 534.
- *funiculum* on cotton textiles, 487.
- *globosum*, effect of sawdust extracts on, 576.
- , factors affecting growth and sporulation in, 487.
- on cork gaskets, control, 436.
- [*Chaetomium globosum*] on cotton textiles, 487; in New Guinea, 487.
- on felt in U.S.A., 147.
- on textiles, control, 330.
- on vegetable fibre gaskets, control, 436.
- , use of, as a test organism, in rot-proofing textiles, 84, 148.
- , viability of, 534.
- *indicum*, effect of sawdust extracts on, 576.
- on cotton textiles, 487.
- on jute textiles in India, 378.
- , viability of, 534.
- *kunzeanum* on *Lolium remotum*, (?) toxicity of, to livestock, 125.
- Chalara quercina* on oak in U.S.A., 165.
- Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in New Zealand, 545.
- *thyoides*, *Monochaetia unicornis* on, in U.S.A., 455.
- Chard (*Beta vulgaris* var. *cicla*), cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- Chayote, see *Sechium edule*.
- Cheese, *Fusarium* and *Penicillium* on, 250.
- Cheiranthus cheiri*, see Wallflower.
- Chemicals used in pest control, simple names for, 32.
- Chenopodium album*, beet mosaic virus can infect, 345.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- *murale*, beet mosaic virus can infect, 345.
- Cherry (*Prunus avium* and *P. cerasus*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in New S. Wales, 28.
- , *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, in New S. Wales, 27; control, 276; geographical distribution of, 96.
- bark blister in U.S.A., 355.
- blister in U.S.A., 466.
- , *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on, in Belgium, 463; Denmark, 411; New S. Wales, 27; Switzerland, 428.
- , *Coccomyces hiemalis* on, in U.S.A., 173, 510, 570; varietal reaction to, 175.
- decline disorders in New S. Wales, 28.
- , *Glomerella cingulata* on, in Switzerland, 428; U.S.A., 140.
- gumming disorders in New S. Wales, 28.
- , little cherry virus on, in Canada, 354, 555; U.S.A., 285; differentiation between 'small bitter cherry' and, 28; legislation against, in Canada, 354.
- , *Nectria galligena* on, in Rumania, 274.
- , *Pseudomonas mors-prunorum* on, in England, 76; New S. Wales, 27; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *prunicola* and *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in New S. Wales, 27.
- rasp leaf in U.S.A., 355.
- , *Sclerotinia fructicola* on, in New S. Wales, 27; U.S.A., 244, 510.
- , *laxa* on, in France, 430; varietal reaction to, 76.
- , *seaveri* on, in U.S.A., 244.
- , 'small bitter cherry' disease of, in Canada, 28, 354; differentiation between 'little cherry' virus and, 28.
- sun scald in New S. Wales, 28.
- *Venturia cerasi* on, in Brazil, 122.
- waterlogging in New S. Wales, 28.
- wood rots in New S. Wales, 28.
- , zinc deficiency in, in Holland, 337, 424.
- Chestnut (*Castanea*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in U.S.A., 372.
- , *Endothia parasitica* on, in Italy, 264, 265, 589, 590; in Spain and U.S.A., 589.

- [Chestnut], *Endothiaella gyrosa* f. *tamba* on, in Spain, 114.
- , *Exosporina fawcetti* on, in U.S.A., 103.
- , frost injury, *Exosporina fawcetti* in relation to, 103.
- , *Phytophthora cambivora* on, in (?) Portugal, 395; Spain, 165; variety reaction to, 114, 544.
- , — *cinnamomi* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- , — *citrophthora* can infect, 114.
- , *Volvetella ciliata* var. *stipita* on, in Spain, 114.
- Chick pea, see *Cicer arietinum*.
- Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), *Alternaria sonchi* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Cercospora longissima* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Marssonina panattoniana* on, in Turkey, 349.
- , *Pseudomonas marginalis* on, in Argentina, 404.
- , *Puccinia cichorii* on, in Turkey, 114.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, thermal death point of, 204.
- Chilli (*Capsicum*), *Alternaria capsici-annui* on, in Rumania, 458.
- , *Alternaria longipes* on, in Turkey, 458.
- , — *tenuis* f. *genuina* on, in Argentina, 458.
- , *Aphanomyces* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Bacillus polymyxa* on, in Palestine, 458.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , *Cercospora unamunoii* on, in Abyssinia, 406; synonymy of, 406.
- , *Colletotrichum capsici* and *C. nigrum* on, in Malaya, 464.
- , — *phomoides* can infect, 393.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Canada, 507; *Pyrausta nubilalis* in relation to, 507.
- , leaf curl in Malaya, 464.
- , *Leveillula taurica* on, in Abyssinia, 406.
- , lucerne mosaic virus on, in Canada, 187.
- , mosaic in Malaya, 464.
- , mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , *Peronospora tabacina* on, in U.S.A., 587.
- , *Phytophthora capsici* on, in Argentina, 204; Greece, 95.
- , *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- , tobacco mosaic virus on, 587; in Argentina, 389.
- , tomato big bud virus on, in U.S.S.R., 48; transmission of, by *Hyalosthes obsoletus*, 48.
- , *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* on, in Rumania, 274.
- Chionodoxa luciliae*, *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 135.
- Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), *Puccinia porri* on, in Canada, 555.
- Chlamydomyces palmarum* on banana in the Belgian Congo, 122.
- Chloramine B, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
- Chloromycetin, production of, by *Streptomyces*, 146, 535.
- Chloronaphtholeum, use of, against *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *coffae* on coffee, 472.
- Chloropicrin, use of, against *Erwinia phytophthora* on *Delphinium*, 478; *Fusarium* on pea, 155; *F. oxysporum* f. *callistephi* on aster, 23; tomato 'hard core', 117; as a soil disinfectant, 126.
- Chlorosis of peach and plum, control, 430.
- , lime-induced of vine in France, 348.
- Chromic oxide, use of, for rot-proofing textiles, 377.
- Chromium in relation to iron deficiency, 336.
- , fluoride, use of, against moulds on leather, 252.
- Chromobacterium*, flagellation and motility in, 225.
- Chrysanthemum*, *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, in New S. Wales, 136.
- , magnesium and potassium deficiency in, in England, 113.
- , *Puccinia chrysanthemi* on, in New S. Wales, 136.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *Septoria chrysanthemella* on, in New S. Wales, 136.
- , — *chrysanthemi-indici* on, in Spain, 387.
- , stunt in Canada, 555.
- , tomato spotted wilt virus and *Verticillium dahliae* on, in New S. Wales, 136.
- , *carinatum*, *Alternaria anagallidis* var. *linariae* on, in Denmark, 411.
- , *cinerariaefolium*, *Coniothyrium* on, in Ceylon, 556.
- , *indicum*, *Oidium chrysanthemi* on, control, 422.
- , *leucanthemum*, *Septoria leucanthemi* on, in Argentina, 186.
- Chrysomyxa ledi* on *Ledum palustre* and spruce in Siberia, 301.
- Ciba, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 428.
- Ciboria* in Denmark, 498.
- , *alni* on alder in Denmark, 498.
- , *betulae* on birch in Denmark, 498.
- Cicer arietinum*, *Ascochyta rabiei* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 224.
- , *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
- , —, *Fusarium orthoceras* var. *cicero*, *Mycosphaerella rabiei* and *Operculella padwickii* on, in India, 315.
- , —, *Uromyces ciceris-arietini* on, in India, 110.
- Cichorium endivia*, see Endive.
- , *intybus*, see Chicory.
- Cicinnobolus cesatii* on *Sphaerotheca voandzeiae* in Madagascar, 80.
- Cinchona*, *Corticium solani* on, in the Belgian Congo, 123.
- , *Elsinoe cinchonae* on, in Central and S. America, 155.
- , *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on, in Peru, 255.
- , *Pythium* on, in the Belgian Congo, 123.
- Cineraria* (*Senecio cruentus*), *Ascochyta cinerariae* on, in England, 79.
- Cinnamaldehyde, use of, with mercuric chloride against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.
- Cinnamomum camphora*, see Camphor.
- Cintractia*, taxonomy of, 46.
- Cirsium arvense*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- , *lanceolatum*, *Cystopus tragopogi* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Citrullus vulgaris*, see Watermelon.
- Citrus (including all *Citrus* hosts), *Alternaria* on, in U.S.A., 562.
- , — *citri* on, in Morocco, 319; U.S.A., 233.
- , — anthracnose in Morocco, 319.
- , *Ascochyta* on, in Argentina, 257.
- , — *citricola* on, in the Cameroons and South Australia, 564.
- , bark shelling in U.S.A., 520.
- , blind pocket psorosis in U.S.A., 361.
- , bud-union decline disease in Victoria, 320, 419.
- , calcium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
- , canker B disease, legislation against, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S.A., 352.

- [Citrus] chlorosis in Java, 131; U.S.A., 520.
 —, *Clitocybe tabescens* on, in U.S.A., 279; host range of, 279.
 — collapse in U.S.A., 471.
 —, *Colletotrichum* on, in Argentina, 257; U.S.A., 562.
 —, — *gloeosporioides* on, in Morocco, 319; U.S.A., 233.
 — concave gum psorosis in U.S.A., 361.
 — (?) concentric ring blotch in the Belgian Congo, 122.
 —, *Corticium salmonicolor* on, in Ceylon, 556.
 —, — *solani* on, in Argentina, 257.
 — decline in the Gold Coast, 508.
 —, *Deuterophoma tracheiphila* on, 70; in Italy, 317; Sicily, 469; Turkey, 349; biological study on, 318; control, 470; factors affecting, 469; study on, 317; varietal reaction to, 318.
 —, *Diaporthe citri* on, in New Zealand, 116; geographical distribution of, 96.
 — die-back, 279; in U.S.A., 561.
 —, *Diplodia* on, in U.S.A., 561.
 —, — *natalensis* on, in the Belgian Congo, 123; S. Africa, 351; U.S.A., 313; control, 313, 351; factors affecting, 576.
 — dry bark, 470; in U.S.A., 232, 471, 519.
 —, *Elsinoe australis* on, in Eritrea, 521; legislation against in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S.A., 352.
 —, — *fawcetti* on, in the Belgian Congo, 123; geographical distribution of, 96.
 —, *Exosporina fawcetti* on, in U.S.A., 103.
 — foliocollosis in Italy, 234.
 — frost injury, *Exosporium fawcetti* in relation to, 103.
 —, *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 562.
 —, *Gloeodes pomigena* on, in S. Africa and Southern Rhodesia, 522.
 — granulation in Australia, Brazil, British W. Indies, China, Egypt, Honduras, India, Mexico, Palestine, Siam, S. Africa, U.S.A., and U.S.S.R., 521.
 —, *Guignardia citricarpa* on, in New S. Wales, 562.
 — gummosis, varietal reaction to, 129.
 —, *Hormodendron* on, in U.S.A., 562.
 —, magnesium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
 — mineral deficiency and excess diseases in Morocco, 319.
 — oleocollosis in Morocco, 319.
 —, *Oospora citri-aurantii* on, in U.S.A., 250; geographical distribution of, 96.
 —, *Penicillium* on, 250.
 —, — *digitatum* on, in Morocco, 320; S. Africa, 522, 523; U.S.A., 233, 471; control, 471.
 —, — *italicum* on, 320; in U.S.A., 233.
 —, *Phoma citricarpa* on, 469; in Japan, 132; S. Africa, 351, 563; spread of, 351.
 —, *Phomopsis* on, in U.S.A., 561.
 —, phosphorus deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
 —, *Phytophthora* on, 129; in New S. Wales, 70.
 —, — *citrophthora* on, 129; in Argentina, 204; the Belgian Congo, 123; legislation against in New S. Wales, 70.
 —, — *palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 —, — *parasitica* on, 129; in Argentina, 204; Java, 131; Morocco, 319; U.S.A., 279.
 —, potassium excess in, in U.S.A., 520.
 — psorosis A and B in U.S.A., 361.
 — virus in Morocco, 319; Peru, 320; citrus tree registry service for in U.S.A., 128.
 — quick decline in (?) Java, 131; U.S.A., 233, 465, 519; control, 233; incompatibility reactions in relation to, 419; in relation to 'tristeza', 130, 131, 132; legislation against, in U.S.A., 96; transmission of, by symptomless hosts, 519.
 [Citrus] rind spot in U.S.A., 233.
 — root rot, incompatibility reactions in relation to, 419.
 —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
 — shell bark in U.S.A., 183, 471.
 —, *Sphaeropsis tumefaciens* on, in the Cameroons, 564.
 —, *Stemphylium* on, in U.S.A., 562.
 —, *Stomiopeltis citri* on, in S. Africa, 522.
 — storage rots, 115.
 — sun scorch in Morocco, 319.
 — 'tristeza' in Argentina, 131, 521; Brazil, 129, 130, 132, 564; S. Africa, 131; Uruguay, 130; etiology of, 130; comparison of, with 'quick decline', 130, 131, 132; transmission of, by *Aphis* (?) *tavaresi*, 130.
 —, *Verticillium albo-atrum* can infect, 317.
 — virus disease in S. Africa, 418; incompatibility reactions in relation to, 418.
 — virus diseases, control, 219.
 — wilting in Morocco, 319.
 —, wind injury to, in Morocco, 319.
 —, 'wood pocket' disease of, in U.S.A., 129, 470, 471; (?) virus nature of, 129.
 —, *Xanthomonas citri* on, (?) in Madagascar, 81; legislation against, in Persia, 352.
 — *aurantifolia*, see Lime.
 — *aurantium* and *C. bigaradia*, see Orange.
 — *decumana* and *C. grandis*, see Grapefruit.
 — *limonia*, see Lemon.
 — *nobilis*, see Orange.
 — *paradisii*, see Grapefruit.
 — *poonensis*, *C. sinensis*, and *C. tankan*, see Orange.
Cladochaete coronata on *Grevillea robusta* in Ceylon, 197.
Cladosporium on opium poppy in Germany, 124.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
 — on tea, 261.
 —, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
 — *album*, see *Hyalodendron album*.
 — *cucumerinum* on cucumber in England, 111; Finland, 592; Germany, 309; U.S.A., 109; control, 111, 592; histological study on, 309.
 — *effusum* on pecan in U.S.A., 342.
 — *fulvum* on *Solanum nigrum* in Brazil, 100.
 — on tomato in Canada, 354; Peru, 164; Rumania, 274; U.S.A., 164, 174; control, 164; factors affecting, 164; immunity from, in relation to necrosis, 543; varietal reaction to, 164, 543.
 — *herbarum*, control, 484.
 — on cotton in S. Africa, 473.
 — on cotton textiles, 487.
 — on leather, prepared rubber, and textiles, 250.
 —, trapping of spores of, in the air, 289.
 — *oryzae* on rice in Italy, 335; *Helminthosporium maculans* synonym of, 335.
Clasterosporium carpophilum on almond in Turkey, 350.
 — on cherry in Belgium, 463; Denmark, 411; New S. Wales, 27; Switzerland, 428; control, 428.
 — on peach in Holland, 244; Turkey, 350; U.S.A., 75.
 — on plum in Holland, 244.
 — on *Prunus* in Turkey, 350.
 Clavacin from *Aspergillus clavatus*, 203, 488; toxicity of, to *Cercospora nicotianae*, 203.

- [Clavacin], see also Patulin.
- Clavatin, (?) production of, by *Penicillium patulum*, 113.
- Claviceps* on sorghum in India, 561.
- *paspali*, *Cerebella* and *Fusarium* on, 24.
- on *Paspalum* in New S. Wales, 24.
- on *Paspalum distichum* in Turkey, 423; toxicity of, to cattle, 423.
- *purpurea*, culture of, 314.
- on *Agropyron* in Italy, 67.
- on *Agropyron cristatum*, *A. repens*, and *A. smithii*, 558.
- on barley, 314; in U.S.A., 558.
- on *Bromus inermis*, 558.
- on cereals, 314; in U.S.S.R., 226.
- on *Elymus canadensis* and *E. virginicus*, 558.
- on grasses, 314.
- on *Lolium* in Italy, 68.
- on *Poa*, 558.
- on rye in Canada, 314; Great Britain, 127; Italy, 67; U.S.A., 558; U.S.S.R., 11, 226; factors affecting, 314; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 226.
- on *Setaria geniculata* in Brazil, 122.
- on wheat, 314; in Italy, 67; U.S.A., 558; U.S.S.R., 226.
- on *Zizania aquatica* in Canada, 314.
- Clerodendron infortunatum*, *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- Clitocybe*, toxicity of, 46.
- *aurantiaca*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *clavipes*, toxicity of, to bacteria and fungi, 211.
- *flaccida*, *C. fragrans*, and *C. hirneola*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *tabescens* on citrus in U.S.A., 279; host range of, 279.
- on *Ficus elastica* and its var. *variegata* in U.S.A., 23.
- Clivia*, *Colletotrichum cliviae* on, in Czechoslovakia, 74.
- Cloanthus dubius* and *C. irroratus* transmitting aster yellows virus, 353.
- Clove (*Eugenia aromatica*) sudden death in Zanzibar, 276.
- Clover (*Trifolium*), Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325, 526.
- big vein virus, comparison of, with other plant tumours, 178.
- — — on *Melilotus*, tumours caused by, 24; transmission of, by *Agallia constricta* and *Agalliopsis novella*, 24.
- , boron deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- , *Botrytis anthophila* on, in U.S.A., 479.
- club leaf virus, transmission of, by *Agalliopsis novella*, 239.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , *Cymadothea trifolii* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Erysiphe polygoni* on, in U.S.A., 567.
- , *Helicobasidium purpureum* on, in Denmark, 410.
- , *Hyalodendron album* can infect, 237.
- , *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
- , *Pseudopeziza trifolii* on, in Argentina, 257.
- , *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 498; Switzerland, 220, 479; geographical distribution of, 283.
- , *Stagonospora meliloti* on, in Spain, 100; U.S.A., 498.
- [Clover], *Stemphylium sarciniforme* on, in Turkey, 351; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, factors affecting, 123; varietal reaction to, 125.
- , *Uromyces trifolii-repentis* on, in Turkey, 114.
- Coal mines, fungi in, in Sweden, 206.
- tar, use of, as a wound dressing, 241.
- phenols, use of, against *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38.
- Cobalt in relation to iron deficiency, 336.
- Coccids, see Scale insects.
- Coccomyces hiemalis* on cherry in U.S.A., 173, 510, 570; varietal reaction to, 175.
- Cochliobolus heterostrophus* on maize, varietal reaction to, 355.
- *stenosporus* on sugar-cane in Hawaii, 495; varietal reaction to, 96.
- Coco-nut (*Cocos nucifera*), *Fusarium* on, in Brazil, 320.
- , *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in Ceylon, 556; India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- , *Xanthomonas vasculorum* can infect, 234.
- Cocos nucifera*, see Coco-nut.
- COC-S, see Copper oxychloride sulphate.
- Coffee (*Coffea*), *Corticium koleroga* on, in India, 419; Madagascar, 81.
- die-back in India, 419.
- diseases in the Belgian Congo, 361.
- , *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *coffeeae* and *F. solani* on, in Puerto Rico, 472.
- , *Glomerella cingulata* on, in India, 419; Kenya, 280; Madagascar, 79.
- , *Hemileia vastatrix* on, in India, 419; Madagascar, 79; Zanzibar, 276.
- , *Omphalia flavida* on, in Colombia, 132; summary of information on, 132.
- , *Phoma* and *Phomopsis* on, in Kenya, 280.
- , *Rosellinia bunodes* on, in Peru, 542; Puerto Rico, 471.
- , *Verticillium* on, in Puerto Rico, 472.
- Cola chlamydanthra*, cacao swollen shoot virus on, 516, 557.
- Coleosporium calendulae* on *Calendula officinalis* in Argentina, 45.
- *solidaginis* on pine, *Solidago caesia*, *S. hispida*, *S. neglecta*, and *S. odora* in U.S.A., 45.
- , *Peridermium acicolum* a state of, 45.
- Colladonus commissus*, *C. geminatus*, and *C. montanus* transmitting aster yellows virus, 592.
- Colletotrichum* on citrus in U.S.A., 562.
- on orange in Argentina, 257.
- *capsici* on chilli in Malaya, 464.
- *cliviae* on *Clivia* in Czechoslovakia, 74.
- *coffeanum*, see *Glomerella cingulata*.
- (?) — *corchorum* on jute, effect of cultural solution of pathogen on, 380.
- *gloeosporioides* on carob tree in Italy, 528; culture of, 528.
- on citrus in Morocco, 319.
- on orange in U.S.A., 233.
- on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
- *graminicola* on barley, 526.
- on *Eragrostis tef* in Eritrea, 526.
- on millet, oats, *Phalaris canariensis*, and *Setaria italica*, 526.
- on sorghum in India, 315.
- on wheat, 526.
- *lagenarium* on cucumber in U.S.A., 109.
- on *Sechium edule* in Brazil, 215.
- *lilii* on lily, control, 186.
- *lindenianum* on bean in Holland, 456; U.S.A., 510; control, 288, 435, 591; factors affecting, 457; varietal reaction to, 456.

- [*Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*] on broad bean in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , toxicity of plant extracts to, 576.
- , use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 367.
- *unicola* on flax in Argentina, 420; Eire, 236; Paraguay, 420.
- *nigrum* on chilli in Malaya, 464.
- *phlogina* on *Phlox divaricata* in U.S.A., 498.
- *phomoides* on tomato in U.S.A., 164, 174, 392, 466; control, 164, 174, 435, 466; method of infection, 391; study on, 392; transmission of, to chilli and eggplant, 393.
- *trifolii*, host range of, 123, 125.
- *truncatum* on bean in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- on *Phaseolus lunatus* in U.S.A., 306.
- *villosus* on vetch in U.S.A., 66.
- Colloidal copper, see also Bouisol.
- , review of properties of, 485.
- , use of, against *Cladosporium cucumerinum* on cucumber, 111.
- sulphur, see Sulphur, colloidal.
- Colocasia antiquorum*, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , *Phytophthora colocasiae* on, in the Solomon Islands, 407.
- , — *palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- Colza diseases, breeding against, 248.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- Commelina* (?) *nudiflora*, *Kordyana celebensis* on, in Kenya, 312.
- Compositae, *Entyloma compositarum* and *E. polysporum* on, in N. America, 100.
- Coniferae, butt rot and root decay in, and *Phytophthora* and (?) *Pythium* on, in England, 500.
- Coniophora bourdotii*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *puteana* on timber, 397; in Australia, 302; control, 343; effect of electromagnetic waves on, 207; toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106; use of, as a test organism for wood preservatives, 303.
- Coniothecium richardiae* on *Zantedeschia aethiopica* in Argentina, 237; *Phoma richardiae* and *Phyllosticta richardiae* synonyms of, 238.
- Coniothyrium* on *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium* in Ceylon, 556.
- on cotton textiles, 487.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- *diplodiella* on vine in Switzerland, 376.
- (?) — *oleae* on olive in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- *olivaceum* on flax in Canada, 21.
- *sojae* on soy-bean in Madagascar, 80.
- Convolvulus*, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- Copper in relation to iron deficiency, 336; to plant nutrition, 42; to vine court-noué, 408, 409.
- A injury to cucumber, 31; potato, 39.
- , use of, against *Cladosporium effusum* on pecan, 342; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 195.
- ammonium naphthenate, use of, as a timber preservative, 268.
- carbonate injury to apple and pear, 428; rose, 422.
- , use of, against fungus diseases of ornamentals, 422; *Glomerella cingulata* on cherry, 428; *Phytophthora cambivora* on chestnut, 165; *Pseudomonas medicaginis* var. *phaseolicola* on bean, 116; *Puccinia carthami* on safflower, 541; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* or sorghum, 18, 19, 361; *Tilletia caries*, 359; *Venturia inaequalis*, 273, 428; *Venturia pirina*, 428; as a seed treatment for cabbage, lettuce, *Peucedanum graveolens*, and radish, 399; for rot-proofing textiles, 377.
- [Copper] chloride, use of, against copper deficiency in oats, 70; against *Tilletia caries*, 358.
- compounds, organic, survey of, 328.
- cuprosulphite, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* and *Uncinula necator* on vine, 553.
- deficiency in *Aleurites fordii* in U.S.A., 396.
- cereals in Finland, 337; Western Australia, 517; fruit trees in U.S.A., 424; hay in Finland, 337; oats in U.S.A., 69; potato and root crops in Finland, 337; soil in Denmark, 337.
- dusts, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 332; on tomato, 49; *Cercospora arachidicola* and *C. personata* on groundnut, 221; *Septoria lycopersici* on tomato, 49; *Xanthomonas juglandis* on walnut, 590.
- fungicides, depositional and weather-resisting, qualities of, 75.
- , use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 118; *Phytophthora phaseoli* on *Phaseolus lunatus*, 214; with fertilizers, 517.
- hydrate injury to potato, 39; tomato, 31.
- hydro, use of, against *Coccomyces hiemalis* on cherry, 570.
- 40, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 194.
- 8-hydroxyquinoline injury to potato, 39.
- , use of, against moulds on felt, 147.
- injury to potato and tomato in relation to frost damage, 39.
- , ionized, absorption of, through the leaf cuticle, 288.
- lime-arsenic compounds, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 326.
- lime dust, use of, against *Alternaria longipes* on tobacco, 118; *Pseudomonas tolaasi* on mushroom, 111; *Pseudoperonospora humuli* on hops, 174.
- , metallic, use of, against tomato diseases, 435.
- methylldithiocarbamate injury to vine, 408.
- , use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
- naphthenate, effect of, on prepared and synthetic rubber, 41.
- , use of, against *Coniophora puteana*, *Lenzites sepiaria*, and *Polystictus versicolor*, 343; as a timber preservative, 210, 268, 547; in rot-proofing textiles, 84, 378.
- nitroacetate and copper nitrodithioacetate, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 581.
- oleate, use of, in rot-proofing textiles, 84.
- oxide (cuprous), comparison of fineness of copper oxychloride and, 432.
- , use of, against *Cercospora beticola* on beet, 220; *Corynebacterium sepeponicum* on potato, 332; *Phytophthora cambivora* on chestnut, 165; *P. infestans* on potato, 293; *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 272, 436; *Pseudopeziza tracheiophila* on vine, 272; *Septoria apii* on celery, 273; *Xanthomonas juglandis* on walnut, 590.
- , solubility of, 484.
- (cupric), use of, as a seed treatment for peas, 403.
- maag, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 442.
- oxychloride, comparison of fineness of copper oxide and, 432.
- , use of, against *Alternaria longipes* on tobacco, 118; *A. solani* on tomato, 221; *Cercospora*

- spora beticola* on beet, 220; *Clasterosporium carpophilum*, 428; *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on cucurbits, 343; *Phoma citricarpa* on citrus, 564; *Phytophthora cambivora* on chestnut, 165; *P. infestans* on potato, 293; *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 272; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucurbits, 343; *Pseudopeziza tracheiphila* on vine, 272; *Puccinia chrysanthemi* on *Chrysanthemum*, 136; *Septoria apii* on celery, 273; *S. chrysanthemella* on *Chrysanthemum*, 136; *Sphaelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 19; *Tilletia caries*, 359; *Venturia inaequalis*, 273, 529; *V. pirina*, 531.
- [Copper oxychloride] sulphate injury to cherry, 173; cucumber, 31; potato, 39; tomato, 31, 39.
- , use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 89; *Coccomyces hiemalis* on cherry, 173; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 89.
- pentachlorophenate, use of, against moulds on felt, 147; on vegetable fibre gaskets, 436.
- phenylidithiocarbamate, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
- 8-quinolate injury to apple, 510.
- , use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 510.
- 8-quinolinolate injury to cucumber and potato, 31.
- , use of, against *Phyllosticta solitaria* on apple, 529.
- salts, use of, against *Endothia parasitica* on chestnut, 589.
- Sandoz, use of, against *Septoria apii* on celery, 116.
- silicate, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 293.
- spray, insoluble, use of, against *Pseudoperonospora humuli* on hops, 174.
- sulphanilate, bio-assay of, 434.
- injury to vine, 408.
- , use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
- sulphate, bio-assay of, 434.
- , use of, as a timber preservative, 208; as a wound dressing, 242; with dithane and with lime-sulphur against *Uromyces appendiculatus* on bean, 248.
- , basic, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 331; *Corynebacterium sepedonicum* on potato, 332.
- , tribasic, effect of, on ascorbic acid content of tomato juice, 453.
- , —, injury to potato, 331.
- , —, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 331; *Cercospora thujina* on *Thuja*, 176; *Colletotrichum phomoides* on tomato, 466; *Corynebacterium sepedonicum* on potato, 86, 332; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 506; tomato diseases, 435.
- sulphur dust, use of, against *Exosporium sul-tanae* on vine, 217.
- zinc-phenol, use of, against *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38.
- Coppesan, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 194; *Septoria apii* on celery, 116.
- Copra, see Coco-nut.
- Coprinus erathismus* and *C. friesii*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *micaceus* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- *miseri*, *C. picaceus*, *C. plicatilis*, *C. quadridus*, and *C. sphaerophorus*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- Corchorus capsularis* and *C. olitorius*, see Jute.
- Cordyceps olivascens* on an insect in U.S.A., 235.
- [*Cordyceps*] *salebrosa* on beetle in the Panama Canal Zone, 235.
- *venezuelensis* on lepidopterous larvae in Venezuela, 235.
- *washingtonensis* on lepidopterous larvae in U.S.A., 235.
- Coreopsis tinctoria*, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- Cork gaskets, use of fungicides for preservation of, 436.
- Cornus florida*, *Elsinoe* on, in U.S.A., 476.
- , —, *Phytophthora cactorum* on, in U.S.A., 502.
- *sanguinea*, *Septoria cornina* on, in France, 498.
- Coronilla varia*, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
- Corticium catonii* on *Cymbidium*, physiological study on, 331.
- *centrifugum*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *dealbans* on tea, 260.
- *effuscatum*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *galactinum* on apple in U.S.A., 326.
- *koleroga* on coffee in India, 419; Madagascar, 81.
- *salmonicolor* on cacao in Brazil, 226.
- on grapefruit in Ceylon, 556.
- on *Hevea* rubber in Malaya, 336; geographical distribution of, 96.
- on orange in Ceylon, 556.
- on plants, geographical distribution of, 96.
- on tea, 260.
- *sasakii* on bean, broad bean, flax, maize, rice, and wheat, factors affecting, 447.
- *solani*, antagonism between *Actinomyces scabies* and, 193.
- on *Agropyron cristatum*, 187.
- on aster in U.S.A., 511.
- on banana in New S. Wales, 77.
- on bean, 304; in U.S.A., 65, 346, 510; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- on beet in U.S.A., 4, 304, 344; host range of, 304.
- on *Bouteloua oligostachya*, 187.
- on Brussels sprouts in U.S.A., 54.
- on cabbage in U.S.A., 54; control, 54, 213.
- on chilli in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- on *Cinchona* in the Belgian Congo, 123.
- on clover in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- on eggplant in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- on flax in Argentina, 412; Canada, 554.
- on Gramineae in U.S.A., 187.
- on groundnut in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- on *Hibiscus esculentus* in India, 172.
- on hops in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- on lucerne, 187, 304.
- on *Matthiola incana* in New S. Wales, 275.
- on oats, 187.
- on orange in Argentina, 257.
- on *Panicum miliaceum*, 187.
- on pea in U.S.A., 169, 346; control, 4, 169, 346; transmission of, by seed, 346; varietal reaction to, 169.
- on plants in Argentina, 204.
- on potato in Australia, 37; Germany, 90; Switzerland, 220; Tasmania, 578; U.S.A., 152; U.S.S.R., 36, 37; control, 37, 193; factors affecting, 36, 37, 152, 254; time of infection and cumulative effect of, 334; varietal reaction to, 36, 90, 152, 193.

- [*Corticium solani*] on rice in Brazil, 154.
 — on sorghum, 187.
 — on spinach in U.S.A., 344, 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 374.
 — on tobacco in Brazil, 586.
 — on tomato in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
 — on tulip in U.S.A., 323.
 — on vetch in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
 — on watermelon in U.S.A., 344.
 — on wheat, 187.
 — on *Zantedeschia aethiopica* in England, 111.
 — on *Zinnia elegans* in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
 —, physiology of, 490.
 —, toxicity of musarin to, 483; of patulin to, 83.
Corylus avellana, *Armillaria mellea* on, in the Pacific Northwest, 166.
 —, *Botrytis cinerea* on, in England, 266; *Balaninus nucum* in relation to, 266.
 —, diseases of, in the Pacific Northwest, 299.
 —, *Phytophthora corylina* on, in the Pacific Northwest, 166.
 —, *Sclerotinia fructigena* on, in England, 266; *Balaninus nucum* in relation to, 266.
 —, sun-scald of, in the Pacific Northwest, 165.
Corynebacterium, taxonomy of, 66.
 —, *fascians* on wallflower in England, 462.
 —, *flaccumfaciens* on bean in Yugoslavia, 6.
 —, *insidiosum* on lucerne in Canada, 554; U.S.A., 24, 121, 466; synonym of *Burkholderiella insidiosa*, 513.
 —, *michiganense*, inactivation of, 190.
 — on tomato, study on, 393; varietal reaction to, 592.
 —, transmissible lysins for, 413.
 —, *rathayi* synonym of *Agrobacterium rathayi*, 513.
 —, *sepedonicum* on potato in Canada, 537, 554; Europe and France, 537; in Switzerland, imported from U.S.A., 153; U.S.A., 39, 85, 86, 118, 332, 492, 537; antagonism of micro-organisms to, 293; breeding against, 37; control, 38, 86, 91, 118, 332, 537; effect of, on yield, 537; factors affecting, 38; legislation against, proposed, in Canada, 537; not found on commercial or certified seed crops in British Columbia, 354; persistence of, on potato bags, 39; rate of spread of, 332; seed certification against, 537; transmission of, 537; varietal reaction to, 37, 85, 86, 332, 492, 537.
 —, transmissible lysins for, 413.
Coryneum on *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Sequoia sempervirens* in U.S.A., 545.
 —, *cardinale* on *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* in New Zealand, 545.
 — on *Cupressus* in U.S.A., 455, 545; specific reaction to, 545.
 — on *Juniperus chinensis femina*, *Libocedrus decurrens*, *Thuja orientalis*, and *T. plicata* in U.S.A., 545.
 —, *follicolum* on apple, pear, and other fruit in France, 242.
 Cosan, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 428.
Cotoneaster adpressa, *Gymnosporangium sikan-gense* on, in China, 258.
 Cotton (*Gossypium*), *Alternaria gossypina* on, in S. Africa, 472, 475.
 —, *macrospora* on, in Brazil, 100; S. Africa, 472, 475.
 [Cotton], *Ascochyta gossypii* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 474, 565.
 —, *Cladosporium herbarum* on, in S. Africa, 473.
 —, *Fusarium vasinfectum* on, in the Belgian Congo, 122; Central Africa, 377; India, 155; U.S.A., 66, 176; antagonism of *Actinomyces* and bacteria to, 177; breeding against, 66; factors affecting, 155, 177; varietal reaction to, 122, 176, 313.
 —, *Glomerella gossypii* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 523.
 —, leaf curl virus in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 184, 281, 473; India and Nigeria, 281; cause of variation in incidence of, 184.
 — on *Hibiscus esculentus* and *Malva-viscus arboreus* in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 184.
 — 'lightning' wilt on bean, cereals, and cotton in U.S.S.R., 475.
 —, *Mycosphaerella areola* on, in Brazil, 100; *Cercospora gossypii* imperfect state of, 100.
 —, *Nematospora coryli* on, in S. Africa, 361, 475; transmission of, by *Dysdercus*, 361.
 —, *gossypii* on, in S. Africa, 361, 473, 475; transmission of, by *Dysdercus*, 361.
 —, *phaseoli* can infect, 362.
 —, *Nigrospora sphaerica* on, in Turkey, 350.
 —, *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* on, in U.S.A., 185.
 —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
 —, *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, in Turkey, 350.
 —, *Verticillium* on, in Uganda, 474.
 —, *albo-atrum* on, in Brazil, 100; varietal reaction to, 224.
 —, *dahliae* on, in S. Africa, 473; U.S.S.R., 19, 475; varietal reaction to, 19, 224, 473.
 —, *Xanthomonas malvacearum* on, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 183, 474; Greece, 95; Nyasaland, 474; Tanganyika Territory, 474; Uganda, 223, 474; U.S.S.R., 475; breeding against, 223; causes of variation in incidence of, 183; control, 184, 475; genetics of, 280; varietal reaction to, 223, 280, 474.
 —, textile, *Alternaria tenuis* on, 487.
 —, *Aspergillus fischeri* and *A. flavipes* on, 486.
 —, —, *flavus* on, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, *fumigatus* on, 486.
 —, —, *glaucus* on, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, *luchuensis* and *A. nidulans* on, 486.
 —, —, *niger* on, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, *ochraceus* and *A. oryzae* on, 486.
 —, —, *penicilloides* on, in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, *sydowi*, *A. tamarii*, *A. terreus*, and *A. unguis* on, 486.
 —, —, *ustus* on, 486; in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, — var. *laevis*, *A. versicolor*, and *A. wentii* on, 486.
 —, —, *Botryodiplodia theobromae* and *Brachysporium* on, 487.
 —, —, *Chaetomium funicolum* on, 487.
 —, —, *globosum* on, 487; in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, *indicum*, *Cladosporium herbarum*, *Coniothyrium*, *Curvularia*, *Fusarium*, *Gliocladium*, *G. roseum*, *Gliomastix convoluta*, and *Humicola* on, 487.
 —, —, *Memnoniella echinata* on, 487; in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, mildews on, control, 84.
 —, —, moulds on, cellulolytic activity of, 486.
 —, —, (?) *Myrothecium* on, in New Guinea, 487.
 —, —, *inundatum*, *M. roridum*, and *M. verrucaria* on, 487.

- [Cotten, textile], *Penicillium chrysogenum*, *P. citrinum*, *P. luteum*, *P. notatum*, *P. purpurogenum*, *P. rugulosum*, and *P. spinulosum* on, 486.
- , —, *Phoma* and *Pyrenochaeta* on, 487.
- , —, rot-proofing of, 377.
- , —, *Stachybotrys atra* on, in New Guinea, 487.
- , —, *Thielavia sepedonicum* and *Trichoderma viride* on, 487.
- , —, *Zygorrhynchus moelleri* on, 486.
- Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojæ* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- , — *sojæ* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *tracheiphilum* on, in U.S.A., 506.
- , *Helminthosporium vignae* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Myrothecium roridum* on, in India, 309; U.S.A., 10.
- , *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- Crataegus*, *Erwinia amylovora*, *Fabraea maculata*, and *Gymnosporangium globosum* on, in U.S.A., 502.
- *mollis*, *Gymnosporangium globosum* on, in U.S.A., 396.
- *monogyna*, *Gymnosporangium clavariiforme* on, 371.
- , — *confusum* on, in Turkey, 115.
- Creosote, use of, as a wound dressing, 241, 242.
- oil, use of, as a timber preservative, 106, 208, 209, 210, 268, 302.
- tar, use of, as a timber preservative, 209.
- Cristulariella pyramidalis* on *Acer negundo*, *A. pseudoplatanus*, and *A. saccharum* in U.S.A., 395.
- Crocus* mosaic virus in Denmark, 411.
- , *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 135.
- Cronartium flaccidum* on peony in Spain, 386.
- *fusiforme* can infect oak, 267.
- on pine in U.S.A., 267, 398; effect of temperature on spore germination in, 267.
- *ribicola* on currants in China, 258.
- on pine in U.S.A., 64, 104.
- Crotalaria*, *Parodiella paraguayensis* on, in the Cameroons, 197.
- *anagryoides*, *Calonectria* and (?) *Cercospora* on, in Ceylon, 297.
- *intermedia*, bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- *junceae*, *Ceratostomella fimbriata* on, in Brazil, 185.
- , —, *Cercospora demetroniana* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , —, *Fusarium javanicum* on, in Brazil, 134; technique for diagnosing, 134.
- , —, *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
- *naragutensis*, *Parodiella perisporioides* on, in the Cameroons, 197.
- *retusa*, *Parodiella perisporioides* on, in Madagascar, 197.
- *spectabilis*, bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- *usaramoensis*, *Cercospora theae* on, in Ceylon, 297.
- Crown gall tissue (bacteria-free), production of growth-promoting substances by, 276.
- Cruciferae, *Phyllosticta napi* on, in Belgium, 463.
- , *Plasmiodiophora brassicae* on, in U.S.A., 355, 464; control, 32.
- [Cruciferae], *Xanthomonas campestris* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- Crumenula abietina* on broad-leaved trees in Belgium, 205.
- on pine and spruce in Belgium, 396.
- Cryptostegia grandiflora*, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), *Alternaria cucumerina* on, in U.S.A., 109.
- , bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *Cladosporium cucumerinum* on, in England, 111; Finland, 592; Germany, 309; U.S.A., 109; control, 111, 592; histological study on, 309.
- , *Colletotrichum lagenarium* on, in U.S.A., 109.
- , damping-off of, control, 109.
- , effect of fungicides and insecticides on, 31.
- , *Erwinia tracheiphila* on, in U.S.A., 109, 175; transmission of, by *Diabrotica melanocephala*, 109.
- , *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, control, 343, 422.
- green-mottle mosaic virus, particle size in, 162.
- mosaic virus on cucumber (?) in S. Africa, 352; U.S.A., 109; control, 352; crystallization of, 460; effect of protein isolated from *Phytolacca esculenta* on, 508; inhibition of, by spinach extracts, 58; varietal reaction to, 116.
- — — on dahlia in Belgium, 187, 588.
- — — on lettuce in Great Britain, 215; transmission of, by *Myzus ornatus*, 215.
- — — on *Mertensia virginica* in U.S.A., 282; host range of, 282; transmission of, by *Myzus persicae*, 282.
- — — on *Musa textilis*, transmission of, by *Aphis gossypii*, 236.
- — — on passion fruit in New S. Wales, 533; transmission of, by *Aphis gossypii*, 533; (?) seed, 533.
- — — on squash and vegetable marrow, varietal reaction to, 116.
- — —, western, on pansy and *Viola cornuta* in U.S.A., 323; transmission of, by aphids, 323.
- , muskmelon mosaic virus can infect, 271.
- , *Pleospora herbarum* on, 405.
- , *Pseudomonas lacrymans* on, 405; in U.S.A., 109.
- , *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on, in U.S.A., 506; control, 8, 248, 343, 436, 506.
- , *Pythium ultimum* on, in England, 462.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, in Malaya, 464.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- seed treatment with arasan and spergon, 176.
- , *Sporodesmium pluriseptatum* on, in Rumania, 400.
- , *Stemphylium cucurbitacearum* on, re-examination of co-type material of, 405.
- , tobacco necrosis virus can infect, 22.
- , *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, varietal reaction to, 111.
- , — *dahliae* on, thermal death point of, 204; varietal reaction to, 111.
- Cucumis anguria* and *C. flexuosus*, muskmelon mosaic virus can infect, 271.
- *melo* and its vars. *inodorus* and *utilissima*, see Melon.
- — var. *cantaloupina*, see Cantaloupe.
- *sativus*, see Cucumber.
- Cucurbita maxima*, see Squash.
- *moschata*, *Hypomyces solani* f. *cucurbitae* on, in U.S.A., 307; control, 308.
- , muskmelon mosaic virus can infect, 271.
- *pepo*, see Vegetable marrow.

- Cucurbitaceae, *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on, in U.S.A., 215.
- Cumminsella sanguinea* on barberry in Rumania, 274.
- Cunninghamella elegans*, use of, as a test organism in estimating soil fertility, 93.
- Cuprenox, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 62.
- Cupressus*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 455; specific reaction to, 545.
- , *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *blasticola* on, in Argentina, 204.
- , *Monochaetia unicornis* on, in Kenya, 312, 455.
- , *Phomopsis juniperovora* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *abramsiana*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *arizonica*, *Bacterium tumefaciens*, *Coryneum cardinale*, and *Gymnosporangium cupressi* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *forbesii*, *Armillaria mellea* and *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *funebis*, *Gymnosporangium tsingchenensis* on, in China, 159.
- *glabra*, *Gymnosporangium cupressi* and *Phymatotrachelum omnivorum* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *goeniana*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *lusitanica*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- , *Monochaetia unicornis* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 224.
- *macnabiana*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *macrocarpa*, *Armillaria mellea*, *Coryneum*, and *C. cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- , *Pestalotia funerea* on, in Kenya, 455.
- , *Polyporus basilaris* and *P. cutifractus* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *pygmaea* and *C. sargentii*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- *sempervirens*, *Monochaetia* on, in U.S.A., 455.
- *stricta*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- Cupric, see Copper.
- Cuproicide injury to potato, 39.
- , use of, as a seed treatment for beet, 2; pea and spinach, 54.
- yellow, use of, against *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on peach, 76; damping-off of beet, 2; of cucumber, 109; pea root rots, 169; as a seed treatment for rice, 176, 381.
- Cupro-maag injury to apple, 428.
- Cuprous, see Copper.
- Cuprox, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 588; *Septoria apii* on celery, 116.
- Currants (*Ribes* spp.), *Botrytis cinerea* on, 189.
- , *Cronartium ribicola* on, in China, 258.
- , *Nectria cinnabarina* on, 189.
- , *Pseudopeziza ribis* on, in England, 371.
- , *Sphaerotheca mors-uvae* on, in Switzerland, 158.
- , *Stereum purpureum* on, 189.
- Curvularia* on cotton textiles, 487.
- *andropogonis* on *Cymbopogon nardus* in Java, 44; *Napicladium andropogonis* synonym of, 44.
- *inaequalis* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- (?) *lunata* on *Gladiolus* in U.S.A., 525.
- on rice in India, 314.
- on sorghum in India, 315.
- Custard apple (*Annona reticulata*), (?) *Ascochyta* on, in Kenya, 312.
- , *Glomerella cingulata* on, in Assam, 245.
- Cuzol, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 429.
- Cyamopsis psoraloides*, bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, in Malaya, 464.
- Cyanamide dust, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 88.
- Cyclamen*, bacterial disease of, in France, 236.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, in U.S.A., 324.
- Cyclocephala borealis*, *Bacillus popilliae* on, in U.S.A., 363.
- Cydonia vulgaris*, see Quince.
- Cylindrocarpum* on potato in Finland, 579.
- *ehrenbergi*, 527.
- Cylindrocladium scoparium* on lupin in England, 462.
- Cylindrophora albedinis* on date palm in Algeria and Morocco, 419; legislation against, in Algeria, 419.
- (?) *Cylindrosporium* on *Cymbopogon nardus* in Java, 44.
- Cymadothea trifolii* on clover in Turkey, 350.
- Cymbidium*, *Corticium catonii* on, physiological study on, 331.
- Cymbopogon nardus*, *Curvularia andropogonis* and (?) *Cylindrosporium* on, in Java, 44.
- Cynara scolymus*, see Artichoke.
- Cyperaceae, *Myriosclerotinia* on, in Denmark, 498.
- (?) *Cyperus esculentus*, *Ustilago scitaminea* on, in Portuguese E. Africa, 337.
- Cyphomandra betacea*, *Ascochyta cyphomandrae* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- mosaic in New Zealand, 116; transmission of, by insects, 116.
- Cypress, see *Cupressus*.
- Cysteine, effect of, on fungistatic properties of organic mercury compounds, 484.
- Cystopus* in Rumania, 542; taxonomy of, 542.
- *bliti* on *Amaranthus* in Rumania, 543.
- *candidus*, host range and taxonomy of, 542.
- *eurotiae* on *Ceratocarpus arenarius* in Rumania and U.S.S.R., 543.
- on *Eurotia ceratoides* in U.S.S.R., 543.
- *ipomoeae-panduratae* on sweet potato in Brazil, 347; varietal reaction to, 176, 347.
- *lepigoni* on *Spergularia marginata* in Rumania, 543.
- *portulacae* on *Portulaca oleracea* in Rumania, 543.
- *tragopogi*, *C. tragopogonis* synonym of, 543; host range of, in Rumania, 543.
- *tragopogonis* synonym of *C. tragopogi*, 543.
- Cytospora* on peach and plum in Holland, 244.
- *chrysosperma* on poplar in Great Britain, 590.
- *kunzei* on spruce in U.S.A., 503; imperfect state of *Valsa kunzei*, 501.
- *rubescens* imperfect state of *Valsa leucostoma*, 140.
- Dactylella* on dung in Palestine, capturing of nematodes by, 235.
- Dactylis*, *Puccinia glumarum* on, morphology of, 518.
- *glomerata*, *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
- Dactylidium* on mushroom, 552.
- *dendroides* on mushroom, 552, 592.
- Daedalea quercina* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- Dahlia*, *Alternaria carolinacana* on, in Spain, 387.
- , cucumber mosaic virus on, in Belgium, 187, 588.
- , *Entyloma dahliae* on, in Madagascar, 81; U.S.A., 101.
- mosaic virus on *Dahlia* in Belgium, 187; Madagascar, 81; Southern Rhodesia, 118.

- [*Dahlia*], tomato spotted wilt virus on, 222; in Belgium, 187, 588; U.S.A., 299, 421; control, 421; krommek disease a strain of, 118; varietal reaction to, 421.
- Dairy products, *Penicillium* in, 250.
- Damping-off of beet, 2, 4, 344; cucumber, 109; pea and spinach, 344; vegetables, 53; watermelon, 344.
- , see also *Phytophthora*, *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, and other fungi.
- Damson (*Prunus insititia*), peach mosaic virus on, in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, 27; transmission of, by *Anuraphis padi*, 27.
- , *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in U.S.A., 139.
- , *Pucciniastrum padi* on, 206.
- Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 527.
- yellow mosaic virus on dandelion, 214; transmission of, by *Macrosiphum solani*, 214.
- — — — on lettuce, 214; transmission of, by *Macrosiphum solani* and *Myzus ornatus*, 214; *Nasanovia ribicola*, 215.
- Daphne, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- *mezereum*, *Armillaria mellea* on, in England, 462.
- Darluka filum* on *Puccinia graminis* and *P. tritici* in India, 560.
- Dasyscypha willkommii* on larch, 456; in U.S.A., introduced from Great Britain, 503; specific reaction to, 503, 544.
- Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), *Alternaria citri* and *Aspergillus niger* on, in U.S.A., 431.
- , *Cylindrophora albedinis* on, in Algeria and Morocco, 419; legislation against in Algeria, 419.
- , *Omphalia pigmentata* and *O. tralucida* on, in U.S.A., 465.
- , *Penicillium* and *Pleospora herbarum* on, in U.S.A., 431.
- , rhizosis in U.S.A., 465.
- , *Torula*, *Willia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces* on, 251.
- Datura ferox*, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- *metel*, *Alternaria cookei* on, in Turkey, 351; *Macrosporium cookei* synonym of, 351.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- *stramonium*, *Alternaria solani* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , potato leaf roll virus can infect, 493.
- , potato virus disease can infect, 203.
- , potato virus X can infect, 577.
- , *Stemphylium consortiale* can infect, 40.
- , tobacco leaf curl virus can infect, 544.
- Daucus carota*, see Carrot.
- DDT, effect of, on microbiological processes in the soil, 143.
- ineffective against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato and *Plasmodiophora brassicae* on crucifers, 32.
- , use of, against *Erwinia tracheiphila* on cucumber and melon, 175; as a timber preservative, 52; with Bordeaux mixture, 331, 402; copper oxychloride, 273; copper sulphate, basic, 331; fungicides, 255, 581.
- Delphinium*, aster yellows virus, beet curly top virus, celery calico virus, chlorosis, *Corticium solani*, *Diplodina*, and *Erwinia phytophthora* on, in U.S.A., 477.
- , *Erysiphe polygoni* on, in U.S.A., 477; control, 422, 477.
- [*Delphinium*], *Pectobacterium delphinii* on, taxonomy of, 514.
- , *Pseudomonas delphinii*, *Pythium ultimum*, *P. vexans*, ring spot virus, *Sclerotium rolfsii*, and tomato spotted wilt virus on, in U.S.A., 477.
- Dendrocalamus*, see Bamboo.
- Dendrophoma obscurans* on strawberry in U.S.A., 430.
- Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Spermospora subulata* on, in U.S.A., 527.
- 'Desi', microflora of, in India, 535.
- Deuterophoma tracheiphila*, comparison of, with *Dothiorella ulmi*, 338.
- — on citrus, 70; in Sicily, 469; biological study on, 318.
- — on lemon in Italy, 317; Turkey, 349.
- — on orange, 317; varietal reaction to, 318.
- *ulmi*, *Dothiorella ulmi* renamed, 338.
- Deuterophomaceae, taxonomy of, 338.
- Deuterophomina*, a new genus, 339.
- Diabrotica melanocephala* transmitting *Erwinia tracheiphila*, 109.
- Dianthus caryophyllus*, see Carnation.
- Diaporthe* on vine in U.S.A., 410.
- *citri* on citrus, geographical distribution of, 96.
- — on lemon in New Zealand, 116.
- *phaseolorum* on *Phaseolus lunatus* in Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 55.
- — var. *sojae* on bean, chilli, cowpea, garlic, groundnut, *Hibiscus esculentus*, *Lespedeza*, lupin, onion, *Phaseolus helvolus*, and *P. lunatus* in U.S.A., 55; soy-bean in U.S.A., 7, 55; tomato in U.S.A., 55.
- *sojae* on cowpea and groundnut in U.S.A., 10.
- *vaccinii* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- Dibotyron morbosum* on plum in Canada, 354.
- Dichloronaphthoquinone, use of, against *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371.
- 2,3-dichloro 1,4-naphthoquinone, use of, against *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 532.
- 2,4-dichloro 1,3-naphthoquinone, use of, against *Glomerella cingulata* on apple, 481.
- 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, use of, against citrus die-back, 562.
- Dichloropropene, use of, against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. 6 on aster, 23.
- Dictyosperma album*, *Xanthomonas vasculorum* can infect, 234.
- Dictyostelium giganteum* and *D. mucoroides* in soil, destruction of bacteria by, 154.
- Didymascella thujina* on *Thuja plicata* in Belgium, 463; England, 591.
- *tsugae* on *Tsuga canadensis* in Scotland, 505.
- Didymella applanata* on raspberry in Rumania, 274.
- *lycopersici* on tomato in England, 111; toxicity of fungicides to, 112.
- Dieffenbachia picta*, *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in U.S.A., 238.
- Digitaria marginata*, *Piricularia oryzae* on, in India, 581; culture of, 582.
- Dihydroxydichlorodiphenol methane, use of, against moulds on felt, 147.
- Di-isobutyl cresoxy ethoxy ethyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride, use of, against *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38.
- Dinitrocresol, use of, for destroying potato haulms, 150; for killing weeds, 442; with copper oxychloride, 273.
- Dinitro-ortho-cresol, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 326.
- Dinitrothiocyanobenzene, fungicidal properties of, 287.

- 2,6-dinitro-1-thiocyno-4-chlorobenzene, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
- Diospyros kaki*, see Persimmon.
- *lotus*, *Armillaria mellea* on, in U.S.A., 372.
- *virginiana*, see Persimmon.
- Diphenyl, use of, against *Ophiobolus miyabeanus* on rice, 295; for impregnating fruit paper wrappers, 115.
- peat, use of, against *Penicillium* on potato, 152.
- Diplocarpon earliana* on strawberry in U.S.A., 430; breeding against, 28; control, 354; varietal reaction to, 28, 176.
- *rosae* on rose in Canada, 475; U.S.A., 324, 475; control, 288, 324; *Marssonina rosae* imperfect state of, 475.
- Diplodia* on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
- on citrus in U.S.A., 561.
- on groundnut in U.S.A., 60.
- on lime in the Gold Coast, 509.
- on timber, control, 546.
- *cajani* on pigeon pea in India, 526; culture of, 526.
- *natalensis* on citrus in the Belgian Congo, 123; S. Africa, 351; factors affecting, 576.
- on lemon in U.S.A., 313.
- *pineae* on pine in Italy, 104.
- *recifensis* on mango in Brazil, 77; transmission of, by *Xyleborus affinis*, 77.
- *zeae* on maize in U.S.A., 278, 417, 510; factors affecting, 120.
- Diplodina* on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- *passerinii* on *Antirrhinum* in Turkey, 349.
- Dithane injury to tomato, 164.
- , use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 331; *Cercospora thujina* on *Thuja*, 176; *Curvularia* (?) *lunata* on *Gladiolus*, 525; *Gymnosporangium* (?) *juni-peri-virginianae* on apple, 174; peach X-disease virus, 532; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 195; *Septoria apii* on celery, 116; *Stemphylium* on *Gladiolus*, 566; *Uromyces fabae* on broad bean, 116; with zinc sulphate, 247.
- B-11, use of, against *Peronospora parasitica* on cabbage, 167.
- D-14 injury to potato and tomato reduced by addition of zinc sulphate and hydrated lime, 31.
- , use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 165; *Curvularia* (?) *lunata* on *Gladiolus*, 525; damping-off of cabbage, 213; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 254; on tomato, 165; *P. phaseoli* on *Phaseolus lunatus*, 214; *Plasmodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213; with zinc sulphate-lime against *Phytophthora infestans* on tomato, 164; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 8; *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371.
- Z-78 injury to potato, 39.
- , use of, against *Colletotrichum truncatum* on *Phaseolus lunatus*, 307; *Peronospora tabacina* on tobacco, 175; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 8; vegetable diseases, 574.
- zinc sulphate-lime injury to cucumber, potato, and tomato, 31.
- , use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 89; *Colletotrichum phomoides* on tomato, 466; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 89.
- Dogwood, see *Cornus*.
- Dolichos biflorus*, *Phaseolus lunatus* mosaic virus can infect, 550.
- *tablab*, *Dolichos enation* mosaic virus on, in India, 309; transmission of, to bean and tobacco, 310.
- Dolomite, use of, against magnesium deficiency in apple, 117.
- Doronicum*, *Sphaerotheca fuliginea* on, in England, 78.
- Doru linearia*, *Beauveria bassiana* on, in Brazil, 100.
- Dothichiza caroliniana* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 29.
- *populea* on poplar in Great Britain, 590.
- Dothidella ulei* on *Hevea* rubber in Mexico, 381; Venezuela, 41.
- Dothiorella*, taxonomy of, 387.
- on walnut in U.S.A., 103.
- *cajani* and *D. philippinensis*, synonyms of *Macrophomina phaseolina*, 388.
- *ribis* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- *ulmi*, comparison of, with *Deuterophoma traicheiphila*, 338.
- — renamed *Deuterophoma ulmi*, 338.
- Dow B, use of, as a seed treatment for cotton, groundnut, and maize, 574.
- DN dry-mix and Dow DN 289, use of, against *Taphrina deformans* on peach, 510.
- 5, use of, against *Penicillium* on *Iris* and tulip, 282; *Peronospora parasitica* on cabbage, 167.
- 9, use of, against damping-off of cabbage, 213; *Plasmodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213; as a seed treatment for *Ricinus communis*, 586.
- 9B, use of, against *Glomerella gossypii* on cotton, 523; as a seed treatment for groundnut, 66; rice, 381.
- 66, improved, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 88.
- 289 injury to vine, 509.
- , use of, against *Elsinoe veneta* on raspberry, 509.
- 296 injury to vine, 509.
- , use of, against *Elsinoe veneta* on raspberry, 509.
- Dowfume G, use of, as a soil disinfectant, 305.
- N, use of, against *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on avocado, 483.
- Dowicide B, use of, against dry rot of *Gladiolus*, 512.
- G, use of, against fungi on asphalt-treated paper, 253.
- H, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 157.
- 9B, use of, against dry rot of *Gladiolus*, 512; *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476.
- Dowspray 66 improved, use of, for killing potato haulms, 493, 581.
- Dryopteris filix-mas*, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
- Du Bay 1452 F, use of, as a seed treatment for flax, 134.
- Dung, sheep's, *Arthrobotrys* and *Dactylella* on, in Palestine, 235.
- Du Pont 1451 D injury to maize, 278.
- 1452 F, use of, against damping-off of beet, 2; pea root rots, 169; as a seed treatment for beet, 2; cotton and groundnut, 66.
- spreader-sticker, 239; use of, with copper A and fermate, 342.
- Dusting apparatus, 217, 287, 435.
- Dyes, use of, in culture media, for distinguishing brown and white wood-rotting fungi, 342.
- Dysdercus* transmitting *Nematospora coryli* and *N. gossypii*, 361.
- Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*), *Alternaria solani* on, in England, 462; New S. Wales, 587.
- , — *tenuis* f. *genuina* on, in Argentina, 458.
- , *Aphanomyces* on, in U.S.A., 10.

- [Eggplant], *Colletotrichum phomoides* can infect, 393.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , *Macrosporium poissoni* on, in Madagascar, 81.
- , *Phoma* on, in England, 462.
- , *Phomopsis vexans* on, breeding against, 126.
- , *Puccinia angivyi* on, in Madagascar, 81.
- , *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- seed treatments, 399.
- , tobacco mosaic virus can infect, 587.
- , tomato big bud virus on, in U.S.S.R., 48; transmission of, by *Hyalesthes obsoletus*, 48.
- , *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Malaya, 464.
- Elaeis guineensis*, see Oil palm.
- Eleusine coracana*, *Cercospora fusimaculans*, *Helminthosporium* (?) *nodulosum* and *Phyllachora eleusines* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Piricularia oryzae* on, in India, 581; culture of, 582.
- Elgetol, use of, against *Elsinoe veneta* on raspberry, 509; *Fusicoccum amygdali* on peach, 569; *Gloeodes pomigena* on pear, 174; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 569; *Taphrina deformans* on peach, 510; *Valsa cincta* and *V. leucostoma* on peach, 569; *Venturia inaequalis*, 117, 174, 326, 356, 427; *V. pirina*, 117, 427.
- Elm (*Ulmus*), *Ceratostomella ulmi* on, in Canada, 50, 256, 300, 555; England, 591; Holland, 166; Italy, 544; Scotland, 591; Switzerland, 102; U.S.A., 63, 265, 301; antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 265; of bacteria to, 300; breeding against, 166; control, 63; legislation against, in U.S.A., 256; specific reaction to, 544; transmission of, by *Hylurgopinus rufipes*, 50, 301; *Scolytus multistriatus*, 64, 301; variation in, 301.
- , *Nectria cinnabarina* on, varietal reaction to, 166.
- , *Sphaeropsis ulmicola* on, in U.S.A., 503.
- , *Verticillium* on, in U.S.A., 502.
- Elsinoe*, geographical distribution of, 32.
- on *Cornus florida* in U.S.A., 476.
- , *ampelina* on vine in Costa Rica, 461; Turkey, 349.
- , *australis* on citrus in Eritrea, 521; legislation against, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S.A., 352.
- , *cinchonae* on *Cinchona* in Central and South America, 155.
- , *faucetti* on citrus in the Belgian Congo, 123; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *leucospila* on tea in Peru, 542.
- , *veneta* on raspberry in U.S.A., 509.
- Elymus*, *Puccinia glumarum* on, in Persia, 227.
- , *canadensis*, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 558.
- , *Ustilago bullata* on, varietal reaction to, 240.
- , *caput-medusae*, *Puccinia graminis* on, in Turkey, 114.
- , *virginicus*, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 558.
- Empoasca flavescens*, *Cephalosporium* on, in the Philippines, 133.
- Empusa* on *Anaphoidea nitens* in Kenya, 312.
- Endive (*Cichorium endivia*), *Alternaria sonchi* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Pseudomonas marginalis* on, in Argentina, 404.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, in Italy, 552.
- Endoconidiophora* on *Platanus* in U.S.A., 341.
- [*Endoconidiophora*] on *Platanus acerifolia* and *P. occidentalis* in U.S.A., 50.
- Endosporales, taxonomy of, 513.
- Endothia parasitica* on chestnut in Italy, 264, 265, 589, 590; Spain and U.S.A., 589.
- Endothiaella gyrosa* f. *tamba* on chestnut in Spain, 114; previously referred to *Cytospora*, 114.
- Enniatin, production of, by *Fusarium orthoceras* var. *enniatum*, toxicity of, to *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* and *M. tuberculosis*, 488.
- A, production of, by *Fusarium orthoceras* var. *enniatum* and *F. scirpi*, 488; identical with lateritiin-I, 489.
- B, production of, by *Fusarium*, 489.
- Enterobacteriaceae, taxonomy of, 513, 514.
- Entomophthora coronata* on *Myzus persicae* in U.S.A., 321; culture of, 321.
- Entyloma* on ornamental plants, control, 422.
- , *calendulae* on *Calendula arvensis* in Turkey, 115.
- (?) — on *Calendula officinalis* in Europe, 101.
- , *compositarum* on *Calendula officinalis* in U.S.A., 101.
- on *Compositae* in N. America, 100.
- on *Gaillardia*, *Helenium autumnale*, and *Rudbeckia laciniata* in U.S.A., 101.
- , *dahliae* on *Dahlia* in Madagascar, 81; U.S.A., 101.
- , *davisii* on *Rudbeckia hirta* in U.S.A., 101.
- , *fuscum* on *Papaver commutatum* and *P. somniferum* in Turkey, 115.
- , *polysporum* on *Compositae* in N. America, 100.
- , *ranunculi* on *Ranunculus ficaria* in Turkey, 115.
- Ephedra*, *Pleospora herbarum* on, cultural study on, 387.
- Ephelis oryzae* on rice in India, 379.
- Epicoccum sinense* on *Astragalus sinicus*, previously identified as *Cymadothea trifolii*, 258.
- Epidermophyton floccosum*, dual phenomenon in, 321.
- Epidochium ilicinum* on oak in Italy, 504.
- Epiphyrops*, *Gibberella fujikuroi* var. *subglutinans* on, 71.
- Eragrostis tef*, *Colletotrichum graminicola* on, in Eritrea, 526.
- Eranthis hymenalis*, *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 135.
- Ergot, see *Claviceps purpurea*.
- Eronel O.S., use of, in rot-proofing textiles, 116.
- Erostrothea multififormis* (?) perfect state of *Hyalodendron album*, 236.
- Erwinia*, taxonomy of, 512, 514.
- , *amylovora* on apple in Canada, 138.
- on *Crataegus* in U.S.A., 502.
- on pear in U.S.A., 326; varietal reaction to, 429.
- on rose, legislation against, in Fiji, 160.
- , taxonomy of, 514.
- , *aroideae* synonym of *Pectobacterium aroideae*, 514.
- , toxicity of *Penicillium patulum* to, 113.
- , *carotovora*, antagonism of *Bacillus subtilis* to, 357.
- on Brussels sprouts in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- on cabbage in Tanganyika Territory, 591; Trinidad, 233.
- on carrot, cauliflower, and celery in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- on chili in Canada, 507; *Pyrausta nubilalis* in relation to, 507.
- on turnip in Tanganyika Territory, 591.

- [*Erwinia carotovora*], physiology of, 490, 515.
 —, taxonomy of, 514.
 —, toxicity of *Penicillium patulum* to, 113.
 —, transmissible lysins for, 413.
 — *lathyri*, cultures referred to, from England, closely related to *Serratia marcescens*, 514.
 — *melonis* synonym of *Pectobacterium melonis*, 514.
 — *phytophthora* on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
 — on potato in U.S.A., 86, 90, 119; factors affecting, 124; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 86, 123, 124, 579.
 — synonym of *Pectobacterium phytophthorum*, 514.
 —, toxicity of *Penicillium patulum* to, 113, 330; of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 356.
 — *salicis* and *E. solanisapra*, taxonomy of, 514.
 — *tracheiphila* on cucumber in U.S.A., 109, 175; transmission of, by *Diabrotica melanocephala*, 109.
 — on melon in U.S.A., 175.
 —, taxonomy of, 514.
 — *vitivora* on vine in S. Africa, 173.
 Erwinaceae, taxonomy of, 514.
Eryngium aquaticum, tobacco mosaic virus on, 200.
 Erysiphaceae, taxonomy of, 128.
Erysiphe cichoracearum on cantaloupe in U.S.A., 66, 308.
 — on *Chrysanthemum* in New S. Wales, 136.
 — on cucumber, control, 343, 422.
 — on melon, control, 343.
 — on potato in Southern Rhodesia, 118.
 — on squash, control, 343.
 — on tobacco in Italy, 201.
 — on vegetable marrow in Switzerland, 158; control, 343.
 — *f. carthami* on safflower in France, 383.
 — *graminis*, ecology of, 68.
 — on barley in Argentina, 67; breeding against, 15, 561; varietal reaction to, 15, 359.
 — on cereals and grasses, physiology of, 490.
 — on oats in U.S.A., 560.
 — on wheat in Sweden, 128; effect of excision of floral organs on susceptibility to, 68; varietal reaction to, 11.
 — *martii* on lupin in Switzerland, 158.
 — *pisi* on pea and vetch in Switzerland, 158.
 — *polygoni* on bean in U.S.A., 56; control, 248, 288.
 — on clover in U.S.A., 567.
 — on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477; control, 422, 477.
 — (?) on lupin in U.S.A., 126.
 — on *Phaseolus coccineus*, water loss from, 149.
 — *polyphaga* on *Begonia* in Sweden, 422; *Oidium begoniae*, imperfect state of, 422.
 Ethane, mercuric derivative of, use of, against *Tilletia caries*, 359.
 Ethanol injury to plants, 284.
 Ethyl mercuric chlorhydrate, thiourated, fungicidal properties of, 415.
 — pentachlorophenolate, use of, against moulds on felt, 147.
 — phosphate, use of, against *Phoma betae* on beet, 3; as a timber preservative, 547.
 —, toxicity of, to *Didymella lycopersici*, 112.
 — mercurithiosaliclate, use of, against *Diplodia natalensis* on cantaloupe, 313.
 Ethylene dibromide, use of, against *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on avocado, 483.
Eucalyptus, *Botrytis* on, in Kenya, 312.
 —, *Fusarium orthoceras* on, in Argentina, 204.
 — *obliqua*, *Mycosphaerella heimii* on, in Madagascar, 80.
Eudarlucra australis on *Puccinia* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
Eugenia aromatica, see Clove.
Eumerus strigatus on potato in U.S.A., 90.
Euonymus japonica, *Oidium euonymi-japonicae* on, control, 422.
 Euphomaceae, taxonomy of, 338.
Euphorbia cyparissias, *Uromyces medicaginis* on, in Canada, 554.
 — *helioscopia*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* can infest, 365.
Eurotia ceratoides, *Cystopus eurotiae* on, in U.S.S.R., 543.
Euscelis maculipennis transmitting aster yellows virus, 353.
Eutettix tenellus transmitting beet curly top virus, 344.
Exobasidium camelliae on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
 — *vaccinii* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
 — *voxans* on tea in Ceylon, 197, 198, 199, 261, 388, 389, 555; India, 297, 298.
Exosporina fawcetti on chestnut, grapefruit, lemon, and orange in U.S.A., 103.
 — on walnut in U.S.A., 102, 465.
Exosporium sultanae on vine in S. Africa, 216.
Fabraea maculata on *Crataegus* in U.S.A., 502.
 — on pear in U.S.A., 174, 429.
 — on *Raphiolepis indica* in New S. Wales, 275.
Fagus, see Beech.
 F.D. white oil, use of, against *Erysiphe polyphaga* on begonia, 422.
 Felts, moulds on, in U.S.A., 147.
 Fence posts, durability of, 208.
 Fernate, effect of, on lily bulbs, 512.
 — injury to cucumber, 31; tomato, 39.
 —, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 165, 174, 221; *Botrytis tulipae* on tulip, 512; *Cladosporium effusum* on pecan, 342; *C. fulvum* on tomato, 165, 174; *Coccomyces hiemalis* on cherry, 510; *Colletotrichum pomoides* on tomato, 165, 174; *C. truncatum* on *Phaseolus lunatus*, 307; *Fabraea maculata* on pear, 174, 429; *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *batatas* and *F. oxysporum* f. 2 on sweet potato, 466; *Gloeodes pomigena* on pear, 174; *Guignardia bidwellii* on vine, 509, 574; *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae* on apple, 174, 285, 510, 573; *Leptosphaeria coniothyrium* on blackberry, 512; *Phoma pomi* on apple, 573; *Phyllosticta solitaria* on apple, 530, 573; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 254; on tomato, 165; *P. palmivora* on *Dieffenbachia picta*, 238; *Plasmiodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 8; *Puccinia flaveriae* on *Calendula officinalis*, 525; raspberry leaf diseases, 574; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on cherry, 510; tomato leaf spot, 313; *Uromyces fabae* on broad bean, 116; *Venturia inaequalis*, 174, 356, 509, 510; *V. pirina*, 573; as a seed treatment for flax and hemp, 421; *Hibiscus esculentus*, 347.
 Ferrie, see Iron.
Ferrisia virgata transmitting cacao swollen shoot virus, 515; cacao virus IB, 178.
 Ferrous, see Iron.
 Fertilizers, effect of, on *Alternaria longipes*, 118; *Aphanomyces euteiches* on pea, 509; beet root

- rot, 3; beet seedling diseases, 1, 2; beet yellows virus, 169; copper deficiency in *Aleurites fordii*, 396; *Corticium solani* on potato, 254; damping-off of cabbage, 213; *Endothia parasitica* on chestnut, 589; *Erwinia amylovora*, 138; *Exosporium sultanae* on vine, 217; *Fusarium bulbigenum* on *Narcissus*, 422; *F. bulbigenum* var. *niveum* f. 2, 346; *Hypomyces solani* f. *cucurbitae* on *Cucurbita moschata*, squash, and vegetable marrow, 308; magnesium deficiency of boysenberry, 140; citrus, 520; youngberry, 140; mineral deficiencies in apple and pear, 530; *Ophiobolus graminis* on barley, 418; wheat, 180, 221; *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on pineapple, 142; *Plasmiodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213; *Sclerotium cepivorum*, 549; *S. rolfii* on *Piper betle*, 95; on various hosts, 47; tobacco mosaic virus, 112; tobacco mosaic virus on tomato, 102; tomato 'cloud' and 'hard core', 117; *Verticillium albo-atrum* on tomato, 111.
- Festuca elatior*, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325.
- *rubra*, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325.
- , *Spermospora subulata* on, in U.S.A., 527.
- Ficus carica*, see Fig.
- *elastica* and its var. *variegata*, *Clitocybe tabescens* on, in U.S.A., 23.
- Field crop diseases, book on, 144.
- Fig (*Ficus carica*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in U.S.A., 372.
- , *Botrytis* on, in England, 462.
- , *Gibberella moricola* on, in England, 462.
- , — *zeae* on, in Brazil, 122.
- mosaic virus in Italy, 528.
- , *Phomopsis cinerescens* on, in England, 462.
- , *Sclerotium rolfii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *Torula*, *Willia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces* on, 251.
- Filago arvensis*, *Cystopus tragopogi* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Fir, see *Abies*.
- Firefoil, use of, in rot-proofing textiles, 116.
- Fish, *Torula* on, 251.
- Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*), *Alternaria* on, 20; in Eire, 236.
- , beet curly top virus on, in U.S.A., 235.
- , *Botrytis* on, 20.
- , — *cinerea* on, in Eire, 235.
- , *Colletotrichum linicola* on, in Argentina, 420; Eire, 236; Paraguay, 420.
- , *Coniothyrium olivaceum* on, in Canada, 21.
- , *Corticium sasakii* on, factors affecting, 447.
- , — *solani* on, in Argentina, 412; Canada, 554.
- die-back in Canada, 554.
- diseases in Germany, 248.
- 'droop' in Eire, 236.
- , *Fusarium* on, in Argentina, 67.
- , — *lini* on, in Argentina, 412; Eire, 236; New Zealand, 20; factors affecting, 412; technique for detecting, 20; varietal reaction to, 126, 185, 236, 412.
- , *Fusicladium lini* on, in England, 79.
- , iron deficiency in, control, 322.
- lower-leaf scorch in Victoria, 322.
- , *Melampsora lini* on, in Argentina, 67, 412; Eire, 235; Turkey, 115; Uruguay, 133; physiologic races of, 412; varietal reaction to, 126, 133, 185, 236, 412.
- , *Phoma* on, in Eire, 236; England, 462; Northern Ireland, 523.
- , — *linicola* on, in Belgium, 463.
- , *Phytophthora* on, in Western Australia, 21.
- , *Polyspora lini* on, in Eire, 236; New Zealand, 19; Northern Ireland, 523; Western Australia, 20; technique for detecting, 19.
- [Flax], *Pythium* on, in Western Australia, 21.
- , — *ultimum* on, in Argentina, 412.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, in Eire, 235.
- , — *dimorpha* on, in Argentina, 204.
- , *Rhizopus* on, 20.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Eire, 236.
- scorch in Canada, 554.
- seed treatment, 421; in U.S.A., 133.
- seed, viability of, review of literature on, 133.
- , *Septoria linicola* on, in Canada, 554.
- 'soil sickness' in Argentina, 412.
- , *Sphaerella linorum* on, in Argentina, 67, 257, 412; Tanganyika Territory, 224; Uruguay, 133; Victoria, imported from Canada, 322; effect of, on yield, 323; factors affecting, 412; varietal reaction to, 133, 185, 322.
- , zinc deficiency in, in Western Australia, 565.
- , — toxicity in, in Australia, 21.
- , textile, *Actinomyces*, *Mycoderma*, *Penicillium*, *Saccharomyces*, and *Torula* on, 379.
- Fluorine excess in plum in U.S.A., 285.
- Folosan DB 905, use of, against *Corticium solani* on potato, 194.
- dust, use of, against *Corticium solani* on potato, 193.
- Fomes annosus* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- on pine in England, 591.
- on *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* in England, 500.
- on timber, 397; in U.S.A., 105.
- on *Tsuga heterophylla* in U.S.A., 105.
- *connatus* on *Acer* in U.S.A., 502.
- *fraxinophilus* on ash in U.S.A., 502.
- *igniarius* on birch in U.S.A., 502.
- on carob tree, 25.
- var. *nigricans* on alder in U.S.A., 207.
- *lignosus* on *Hevea* rubber in the Belgian Congo, 382; Ceylon, 540.
- on tea, 260.
- *nigrolimitatus* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- *noxius* on *Hevea* rubber in the Belgian Congo, 382.
- *officinalis* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- *pini* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- on timber, 397.
- on *Tsuga mertensiana* in U.S.A., 207.
- *pinicola* on spruce in U.S.A., 105, 547.
- on timber, 397; in U.S.A., 105.
- on *Tsuga mertensiana* in U.S.A., 207.
- Food, *Achromobacter perolens* and *Actinomyces* on, 489.
- losses in, caused by insects and mould fungi, 576.
- , *Pseudomonas graveolens* in, 489.
- spoilage by moulds and yeasts, 250.
- Forest pathology in Australia, 105; Great Britain, 500.
- trees, virus diseases of, in Italy, 589.
- Formaldehyde, use of, against *Botrytis tulipae* on tulip, 274; *Ceratostomella paradoxa*, 375; *Claviceps purpurea*, 558; *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38; damping-off of seedlings, 204; *Fusarium bulbigenum* on *Narcissus*, 477, 524; *Peronospora tabacina* on tobacco, 275; *Puccinia carthami* on safflower, 541; *Stagonospora curtisii* on daffodil, 524; *Ustilago avenae* on oats, 468, 517; *U. kolleri* on oats, 468; *Xanthomonas malvacearum*, 475; as a seed treatment for celery, 59; as a soil disinfectant, 136, 215.
- lime, use of, against *Macrophoma kuwatsukii* on apple, 242.

- Forsythia viridissima*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in U.S.A., 23.
- Fraxinus*, see *Asa*.
- Freesia*, *Sclerotinia gladioli* on, in Denmark, 498.
- Friscanamus rupinatus* var. *brunneus* transmitting aster yellows virus, 592.
- Frost (?) causing apple 'green blotch', 245.
- injury to larch and pine, 500; to poplar, causing die-back in England, 501.
- Fruit, moulds on, 284.
- , *Mucor mucedo* and *Trichothecium roseum* on, 250.
- trees, mineral deficiencies in, in England, 243; Switzerland, 274.
- , potassium deficiency in, in Holland, 427.
- , *Sclerotinia fructicola* on, in New S. Wales, 246.
- , trace element deficiencies in, in U.S.A., 423.
- , zinc deficiency in, in U.S.A., 424; Victoria, 568.
- Fumago vagans* on lime tree in U.S.A., 502.
- Fumarates, fungistatic properties of, 440.
- Fungi, competitive parasitism in, 188.
- , culture collection of, at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, 144.
- , — medium for isolation of, 82.
- , ecology of, in Alaska, 206; pinewoods, 104.
- , habitat in relation to, 33.
- , host index of, in China, 159.
- in air in the Arctic, 248.
- in soil, technique for determining growth of, 123.
- , list of, in Brazil, 100, 450; the Canary Islands, 586; China, 498; Italy, 508; Madeira, 586; Oklahoma, 248, 586; the P. A. van der Byl Herbarium, 196; Peru, 542; the Pyrenees, 258; Rumania, 387; S. Africa, 498; Spain, 386; Tanganyika Territory, 158; Turkey, 349; U.S.A., 499, 527; Virginia, 45; Wisconsin, 498.
- on asphalt treated paper, 253.
- on paint, 440.
- on timber, 52.
- , poisonous, French paper on, 46.
- , taxonomy of, 387.
- , text book on, 288.
- , use of perforated cards in preliminary identification of, 99.
- Imperfecti, list of, in U.S.A., 451.
- Fungicides, analysis of, in Texas, 534.
- , applications of, by air blast, 435.
- as seed disinfectants for cereals and other field crops, 434.
- , bactericides and deficiency correctives, book on, 247.
- , bio-assay of, 434, 435.
- for the leather industry, list of, 485.
- in food production, 434.
- , legislation for, on an international basis, 432.
- , list of, 286, 573.
- , nomenclature of, in U.S.A., 432.
- , organic, paper on, 123.
- , preparation and application of, in U.S.A., 375.
- , research on, 433.
- , summary of information on, 328.
- , tablet form of, 485.
- , technique for evaluating, 32.
- , testing of, 287, 376, 407.
- , toxicometric research on, 483.
- , use of, with fertilizers, 213.
- *usarium*, antibiotics from, 83.
- [*Fusarium*], effect of aeration on growth and sporulation in culture, 155.
- in soil, 467; in U.S.A., 511, 519; control, 305.
- on bean in Canada, 55.
- on beet in U.S.A., 2, 402; pathogenicity of, 402.
- on cereals in Switzerland, 220.
- on cheese, 250.
- on citrus in U.S.A., 562.
- on *Claviceps paspali*, 24.
- on coco-nut in Brazil, 320.
- on cotton textiles, 486.
- on flax in Argentina, 67.
- on groundnut in U.S.A., 61, 171; factors affecting, 8.
- on lime in the Gold Coast, 509.
- on lupin in U.S.A., 126.
- on opium poppy in Germany, 124.
- on (?) *Opuntia megacantha*, varietal reaction to, 495.
- on pea, control, 155.
- on pine in U.S.A., 224, 546.
- on potato in U.S.A., 90, 119, 536.
- on rice in Formosa, 446.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- on vegetables, 250.
- on wheat in Canada, 229.
- , production of enniatin B by, 489; of riboflavin by, 252.
- *angustum*, thermal death point of, 204.
- *aquaeductum* on cassava in Brazil, 100.
- *arthrosporioides* on *Agropyron cristatum* and *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
- *avenaceum*, 527.
- on potato in Finland, 579.
- var. *fabae* on broad bean in China, 550; transmission of, to pea and vetch, 551.
- *batatatis* var. *vanillae* on vanilla in Dominica, 464.
- *bulbigenum* on *Narcissus* in New S. Wales, 524; U.S.A., 134, 422, 512; control, 422, 477, 512, 524; factors affecting, 422.
- var. *batatas* on sweet potato in U.S.A., 466; varietal reaction to, 176.
- var. *blasticola* on *Cupressus* and pine in Argentina, 204.
- var. *coffae* on coffee in Puerto Rico, 472.
- var. *lycopersici* on tomato, 394; in Queensland, 399; S. Africa, 351; U.S.A., 356; breeding against, 119, 120, 454; nature of resistance to, 588; physiologic races of, 121; varietal reaction to, 119, 351, 356, 399, 454.
- var. *niveum* on watermelon in U.S.A., 8, 592; breeding against, 8, 405, 592.
- — — f. 1 on melon and watermelon, 307.
- — — f. 2 on melon, 307; in U.S.A., 346.
- — — on watermelon, 307.
- var. *tracheiphilum* on cowpea in U.S.A., 506.
- *caeruleum*, antibiotics from, 83.
- on potato in Finland, 579; Scotland, 292; U.S.A., 175.
- *conglutinans* on cabbage in U.S.A., 591.
- var. *callistephi* on China aster in U.S.A., 567; control, 23.
- *culmorum*, antagonism of some soil bacteria and fungi to, 241.
- , morphological and cultural characteristics of, 85.
- on *Agropyron cristatum* in Canada, 241.
- on barley in U.S.A., 179.
- on *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
- on cereals and grasses in U.S.A., 136.
- on oats in U.S.A., 180.

- [*Fusarium culmorum*] on wheat in U.S.A., 179.
 —, toxicity of musarin to, 483.
 —, use of, as a test organism in assaying fungicides, 434.
 — *equiseti* on *Agropyron cristatum* and *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
 — on cereals in U.S.A., 180.
 — *graminum* on *Paspalum* in Brazil, 100.
 — *javanicum* on *Crotalaria juncea* in Brazil, 134; technique for diagnosing, 134.
 — *lateritium*, production of lateritiin-I by, 488.
 — *lini* on flax in Argentina, 412; Eire, 236; New Zealand, 20; factors affecting, 412; technique for detecting, 20; toxicity of musarin to, 483; varietal reaction to, 126, 185, 236, 412.
 — *lycopersici*, effect of culture filtrate of, on adventitious root formation, 577.
 — *merismoides* on potato in Finland, 579.
 — *moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* imperfect state of *Gibberella fujikuroi* (?) var. *subglutinans*, 256.
 — *orthoceras* on *Eucalyptus* and pine in Argentina, 204.
 —, thermal death point of, 204.
 — var. *ciceri* on *Cicer arietinum* in India, 315.
 — var. *enniatum*, production of enniatin by, 488.
 — var. *longius*, thermal death point of, 204.
 — *oxysporum*, control, 484.
 — on *Agropyron cristatum* and *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
 — on oil palm in the Belgian Congo, 463, 523; Nigeria, 523.
 — on pine in Argentina, 204.
 — on potato in Fiji, 9.
 — f. 2 on sweet potato in U.S.A., 466; production of antibiotic substances by, 290; varietal reaction to, 176.
 — f. *matthioli* on *Matthiola incana* and *M. incana* var. *annua* in U.S.A., 476.
 — f. *phormii* on *Phormium tenax* in S. Africa, 185.
 — f. *spinaciae* on spinach in U.S.A., 59.
 — var. *cubense* on banana in Brazil, 77, 100; New S. Wales, 76; Queensland, 221; study on, 533; technique for diagnosing, 221; varietal reaction to, 76, 77.
 — — — on plantain in Brazil, 100.
 — — —, toxicity of musarin to, 483.
 — var. *gladioli* on *Gladiolus* in Argentina, 73; U.S.A., 476, 567.
 — var. *nicotianae*, culture of, 499; toxicity of, to tobacco, 499.
 — — — on tobacco, varietal reaction to, 48.
 — *perniciosum* on *Albizzia julibrissin* in U.S.A., 299, 300.
 — *ricini* on *Ricinus communis* in Formosa, 450.
 — *sambucinum* on potato in Finland, 579.
 — f. 6 on potato in U.S.A., 175.
 — *scirpi* on cereals in U.S.A., 180.
 —, production of enniatin A by, 488.
 — var. *acuminatum* on *Agropyron cristatum* and *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
 — *solani*, control, 484.
 — on *Agropyron cristatum* and *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
 — on coffee in Puerto Rico, 472.
 — on potato in Finland, 579.
 — f. *cucurbitae*, inactivation of, 190.
 — f. *pisi* on pea, control, 5.
 — var. *eumartii* on potato in U.S.A., 86.
 — var. *martii*, thermal death point of, 204.
 — — — f. 2 on pea in U.S.A., 169.
 — *udum* on pigeon pea in India, 155.
 [*Fusarium vasinfectum*, effect of culture filtrate of, on adventitious root formation, 577.
 — on cotton in the Belgian Congo, 122; Central Africa, 377; India, 155; U.S.A., 66, 176; antagonism of *Actinomyces* and bacteria to, 177; breeding against, 66; factors affecting, 155, 177; varietal reaction to, 122, 176, 313.
 —, use of, as a test organism in assaying fungicides, 434.
Fusicladium dendriticum vars. *orbiculatum* and *sorbinum* synonyms of *Fusicladium orbiculatum*, 257.
 — *depressum* var. *petroselinii* on parsley in Turkey, 350; synonym of *Cercospora anethi*, 400.
 — *lini* on flax in England, 79.
 — *orbiculatum* imperfect state of *Venturia inaequalis* var. *cinerascens*, 257.
 — on *Sorbus domestica* in Argentina, 257; synonym of, 257.
Fusicoccum amygdali on peach in U.S.A., 569.
Gaillardia, *Entyloma compositarum* on, in U.S.A., 101.
 — *pulchella*, *Septoria gaillardiae* on, in Argentina, 186.
 — var. *picta*, *Septoria gaillardiae* on, in U.S.A., 498.
Galanthus nivalis, see Snowdrop.
Galega officinalis, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
 Gammexane, use of, against mites in fungus cultures, 222.
 — PC 982 and PC 1147, use of, as timber preservatives, 52.
Ganoderma applanatum on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
 — on tea, 260.
 — *lucidum* on lime in the Gold Coast, 508.
 — on *Tamarindus indica* in Ceylon, 555.
 — on tea, 260.
 — *pseudosphaerium* on *Albizzia moluccana* in Malaya, 464.
 — on cacao and *Gliricidia maculata* in Malaya, 464.
 — on *Hevea* rubber in the Belgian Congo, 382.
 — on tea in Malaya, 464.
 Garlic (*Allium sativum*), *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
 —, *Puccinia alli* on, in Scotland, intercepted from Portugal, 462.
 —, (?) *Sclerotinia porri* on, in England, 170.
 —, *Sclerotium cepivorum* on, in U.S.A., 549.
 Gas-oil solvent, use of, with copper naphthenate, 210.
 Gasteromycetes in S. Africa, 498.
 Genicop, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 581.
Geranium dissectum, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
Gerbera, *Septoria gerberae* on, in Fiji, 9.
 — *jamesonii*, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
 Germisan, use of, against *Pleospora calvescens* on opium poppy, 124; *Ustilago perennans* on *Arrhenatherum elatius*, 125.
Geum, *Peronospora gei* and *Zythia fragariae* on, in England, 462.
 — *chiloense*, *Peronospora gei* on, in Canada, 555.
Gibberella on tea, 260.
 — *fujikuroi*, control, 484.
 — on maize in Brazil, 100, 122; U.S.A., 417, 510.
 — on rice in India, 155, 314.
 — on sugar-cane in Argentina, 44.

- [*Gibberella fujikuroi*] on wheat in Brazil, 100.
 —, toxicity of, to *Ophiobolus graminis*, 229.
 — var. *subglutinans* on *Epiprops*, 71.
 — (?) — on sugar-cane in Java, 256;
Fusarium moniliforme var. *subglutinans* im-
 perfect state of, 256.
 — *lateritia*, toxicity of musarin to, 483.
 — *moricola* on fig in England, 462.
 — *zeae*, hydrogen-ion concentration of culture
 media in relation to, 232.
 — — inhibition of, by trichothecin, 437.
 — on barley in U.S.A., 179; breeding against,
 15.
 — on cassava in Brazil, 122.
 — on cereals in U.S.A., 136.
 — on fig in Brazil, 122.
 — on grasses in U.S.A., 136.
 — on maize in Brazil, 122; U.S.A., 278,
 510.
 — on wheat in Argentina, 413; Brazil, 122;
 U.S.A., 179; *Fusarium graminearum* imper-
 fect state of, 413.
 —, use of, as a test organism in assaying
 fungicides, 440.
Gladiolus, *Bacterium marginatum* on, in
 Argentina, 364; Queensland, 421; Rumania,
 275; U.S.A., 567; control, 422.
 —, *Botrytis* (?) *cinerea* on, in U.S.A., 476, 567.
 —, *Curcularia* (?) *lunata* on, in U.S.A., 525.
 —, *Fusarium oxysporum* var. *gladioli* on, in
 Argentina, 73; U.S.A., 476, 567.
 —, *Sclerotinia gladioli* on, in Denmark, 498;
 U.S.A., 476, 512, 567; control, 476, 512.
 —, *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 135.
 —, *Stemphylium* on, in U.S.A., 566.
 Glass, optical, micro-organisms on, control, 145.
Gladiolus on cotton textiles, 487.
 — *catenulatum*, antibiotics from, 83.
 — *fimbriatum*, antagonism of, to *Fusarium*
culmorum, 241; *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228.
 — *roseum* and *Gliomastix convoluta* on cotton
 textiles, 487.
 Gliotoxin from *Trichoderma viride*, 203.
Glireschia maculata, *Ganoderma pseudoferreum* on,
 in Malaya, 464.
Gloeocercospora inconspicua on *Vaccinium* in
 U.S.A., 29.
 — *sorghii* on *Pennisetum purpureum* and *P.*
typhoides in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
Gloeodes pomigena on orange in S. Africa and
 Southern Rhodesia, 522.
 — on pear in U.S.A., 174, 429.
Gloeosporium imperfect state of *Glomerella cin-*
gulata, 30.
 — on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
 — *apocryptum* on *Acer* in U.S.A., 502.
 — *aridum* on ash in U.S.A., 502.
 — *bolleyi* on cereals and grasses in U.S.A., 366.
 — *cyclaminis*, use of, as a test organism in
 assaying fungicides, 434.
 — *mangiferae*, *Physalospora perseae* (?) pre-
 viously attributed to, 30.
 — *pachybasium* on box in Spain, 386.
Glomerella on vine in U.S.A., 410.
 — *cingulata* on apple in Madagascar, 80; U.S.A.,
 481; production of toxins by, 369.
 — on cacao in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 — on cherry in Switzerland, 428; U.S.A., 140.
 — on coffee in India, 419; Kenya, 280;
 Madagascar, 79.
 — on custard apple in Assam, 245.
 — on lupin in U.S.A., 367.
 — on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30; *Gloeosporium*
 imperfect state of, 30.
[Glomerella cingulata] on vine in Costa Rica, 461.
 — *glycines* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
 — *gossypii* on cotton in Tanganyika Territory,
 158; U.S.A., 523.
 — *major* on tea, 260.
 — *vanillae* var. *pelargonii* on *Pelargonium*
capitatum in Madagascar, 80.
 Glutinosin, effect of, on *Botrytis allii*, *Byssos-*
chlamsys fulva, *Hydnium coralloides*, *Mucor*
mucedo, *Penicillium digitatum*, *Phoma betae*,
 and *Trichoderma viride*, 146.
 —, production of, by *Myrothecium verrucaria*,
 145.
Glyceria, *Septoria glycericola* on, in U.S.A., 528.
Glycine max, see Soy-bean.
Glycyrrhiza glabra, *Uromyces glycyrrhizae* on, in
 Turkey, 114.
 Glyoxalidine, use of, against *Pseudopeziza ribis*
 on currants, 371.
Gnomonia veneta on *Platanus occidentalis* in
 France, 396.
Godezia hybrida, *Alternaria brassicicola* on, in
 Denmark, 411.
Godronia cassandrae on *Vaccinium* in Canada,
 555.
Gomphidius glutinosus, toxicity of, to *Pullularia*
pullulans, 211.
 Gooseberry (*Ribes grossularia*), *Sphaerotheca*
mors-uvae on, in Rumania, 274.
 Gossypium, see Cotton.
 Grain diseases, list of, in U.S.A., 357.
 —, technique for testing moisture content of, 325.
 Gramineae, *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 187.
 —, fungi on, in U.S.A., 499.
 —, see also Grasses, Turf.
 Granosan, use of, against *Alternaria radicina* on
 carrot, 399.
 Granovit Rumanica, use of, against *Tilletia*
caries and *T. foetida*, 484.
 Grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*) blind pocket psorosis
 in U.S.A., 361.
 — 'bud-union decline' in Victoria, 320, 419.
 —, calcium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
 — chlorosis in Java, 131; U.S.A., 520.
 — concave gum psorosis in U.S.A., 361.
 —, *Corticium salmonicolor* on, in Ceylon, 556.
 — die-back in U.S.A., 561.
 —, *Exosporina faugetti* on, and frost injury to,
 in U.S.A., 103.
 —, magnesium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
 —, *Phoma citricarpa* on, in S. Africa, 564.
 —, potassium excess in, in U.S.A., 520.
 — psorosis A and psorosis B in U.S.A., 361.
 — 'tristeza' in Argentina, Brazil, and S. Africa,
 131; Uruguay, 130.
Graphium nanum on tea in India, 260.
 Grasselli spreader-sticker, 173.
 Grasses, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 526.
 —, *Calonectria nivalis* on, in Sweden, 518.
 —, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 314.
 —, diseases of, breeding against, in Germany,
 248; list of, in U.S.A., 357.
 —, *Erysiphe graminis* on, physiology of, 490.
 —, *Gloeosporium bolleyi* on, in U.S.A., 366.
 —, *Physoderma* on, in Europe, 240.
 —, *Puccinia graminis* on, in Persia, 227.
 —, root rots of, in U.S.A., 136.
 —, *Sclerotinia borealis* on, in Sweden, 518.
 —, *Sclerotium rolsfii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
 —, *Typhula* on, in Sweden, 518.
 —, *Ustilago bullata* on, in U.S.A., 511; culture
 of, 187.
 —, — *scitaminea* on, in Portuguese E. Africa,
 337.

- Grevillea robusta*, *Cladochaete coronata* and *Phyllosticta grevilleae* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- Grey speck, see Manganese deficiency.
- Grossularia divaricata*, see *Ribes*.
- Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea*), *Aspergillus* on, in Fiji, 9; U.S.A., 171.
- , *Botryodiplodia theobromae* on, in U.S.A., 171; imperfect state of *Physalospora rhodina*, 171.
- , *Cercospora arachidicola* on, in Queensland, 221; Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 66.
- , — *personata* on, in Madagascar, 80; Queensland, 221; S. Africa, 171; U.S.A., 66; control, 66, 221.
- , concealed damage, losses caused by, 170.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- , — *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Diplodia* on, in U.S.A., 60.
- , *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 61, 171; factors affecting, 8.
- , *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in U.S.A., 60, 171.
- , *Mucor* on, in U.S.A., 61.
- , *Penicillium* on, in U.S.A., 171; factors affecting, 8.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, in Malaya, 464; U.S.A., 171.
- , *Rhizopus* on, in S. Africa, 172; U.S.A., 61, 171; factors affecting, 8.
- , rosette in the Belgian Congo, 406; Central Africa, 376; Uganda, 224.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in S. Africa, 171; U.S.A., 66, 171; factors affecting, 8.
- , seed treatment in U.S.A., 65.
- , *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in S. Africa, 172.
- , Bambarra, see *Voandzeia subterranea*.
- Guignardia bidwellii* on vine, 461; in U.S.A., 509, 574.
- (?) — *camelliae* on tea in Malaya, 464.
- *citricarpa* on orange in New S. Wales, 562.
- Gymnosporangium clavariiforme* on *Crataegus monogyna* and pear, 371.
- *clavipes* on apple and *Juniperus*, geographical distribution of, 96.
- *confusum* on *Crataegus monogyna*, medlar, and quince in Turkey, 115.
- *cupressi* on *Cupressus arizonica* and *C. glabra* in U.S.A., 545.
- *globosum* on apple, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , on *Crataegus* in U.S.A., 502.
- , on *Crataegus mollis* in U.S.A., 396.
- , on *Juniperus*, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , on *Juniperus virginiana* in U.S.A., 396.
- , on pear and quince, geographical distribution of, 96.
- *haraeanum* on *Pyrus lindleyi* and *P. pyrifolia* in China, 258.
- *juniperi* on *Sorbus domestica* in France, 258.
- *juniperi-virginianae* on apple in U.S.A., 174, 285, 510, 573.
- , on *Juniperus virginiana* in U.S.A., 396.
- *juniperinum* on apple in Rumania, 387.
- *sabinae* on *Juniperus communis saxatilis* in Turkey, 115.
- , on pear in Rumania, 387; Turkey, 115.
- *sikangense* on *Cotoneaster adpressa* in China, 258.
- *tsingchenensis* on *Cupressus funebris* in China, 159.
- Halogenofumaric acid, fungistatic properties of, 440.
- Haplobasidium pavoninum* on *Aquilegia* in Canada, 555.
- Haploglyphium manihoticola* on cassava in Brazil, 122.
- Harvesan, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 386; sugar-cane diseases, 156.
- Hay, copper deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- , technique for determining moisture content of, 325.
- He 178, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on tomato, 164.
- 178e, use of, against *Alternaria solani* and *Phytophthora infestans* on tomato, 165; *Venturia inaequalis*, 509, 510.
- Helenium autumnale*, *Entyloma compositarum* on, in U.S.A., 101.
- Helianthus annuus*, see Sunflower.
- Helicobasidium compactum* on tea, 260.
- *purpureum* on beet in Turkey, 351.
- , on clover and *Melilotus* in Denmark, 410.
- Helminthosporium* on *Papaver*, control, 123.
- , on wheat in India, 315.
- , on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146.
- *cactacearum* identical with *H. cactivorum*, 99.
- *gramineum* on barley in Argentina, 67; Great Britain, 127; Morocco, 557; U.S.S.R., 13; breeding against, 15; control, 13; genetics of, 231; incidence of infection in, 127; toxicity of patulin to, 83; varietal reaction to, 15.
- , on wheat in Madagascar, 80.
- *maculans* synonym of *Cladosporium oryzae*, 335.
- *monoceras*, toxicity of patulin to, 83.
- (?) *nodulosum* on *Eleusine coracana* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *sacchari* on sugar-cane in Fiji, 98; Hawaii, 495; varietal reaction to, 96.
- *sativum* in soil, 467.
- , on *Agropyron cristatum* in Canada, 241.
- , on barley in Argentina, 67; Morocco, 557; U.S.A., 179, 511; breeding against, 231.
- , on *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
- , on cereals in Morocco, 557; U.S.A., 136.
- , on grasses in U.S.A., 136.
- , on *Poa pratensis*, resistance to, 136.
- , on rye in England, 462; Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , on wheat in Canada, 229; U.S.A., 179; factors affecting, 229; influence of antibiosis in pathogenicity of, 229; recovery following initial stunting in, 316; varietal reaction to, 11.
- , toxicity of patulin to, 83.
- , use of, as a test organism in assaying fungicides, 434.
- *teres* on barley, breeding against, 15.
- *torulosum* on banana and plantain in Brazil, 100.
- *tritici-vulgaris* on wheat in Japan and U.S.A., 10.
- *turcicum* on maize in Brazil, 100; Turkey, 350; breeding against, 120; varietal reaction to, 120, 355.
- , on sorghum in India, 315.
- , on *Sorghum saccharatum* in Queensland, 19.
- *victoriae* on oats in Canada, 16, 554; U.S.A., 64, 313, 360, 468, 510; breeding against, 16; control, 17, 313, 468, 510; production of toxins by, 16; technique for inoculating, 181; varietal reaction to, 16, 64, 175, 181, 182, 313, 360, 468, 510, 554.

- [*Helminthosporium victoriae*] on *Phleum pratense*, breeding against, 16.
- *vigna* on cowpea and soy-bean in U.S.A., 10.
- Hemileia vastatrix* on coffee in India, 419; Madagascar, 79; Zanzibar, 276.
- Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), *Cercospora cannabina* on, in China, 258.
- seed disinfection, 421.
- , textile, *Actinomyces*, *Mycoderma*, *Penicillium*, *Saccharomyces*, and *Torula* on, 379.
- Hendersonia nodorum*, *Septoria nodorum* referred to, 100.
- Heptadecylglyoxalidine, use of, against *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371.
- 2-heptadecylglyoxalidine, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 371.
- Herpotrichia nigra* on *Tsuga mertensiana* in U.S.A., 207.
- Hesperis matronalis*, *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
- Heterodera marioni*, control, 23.
- Heteropatella antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum majus* in New S. Wales, 275.
- *vallentinensis* on carnation in Canada, 555.
- Heterosporium* on *Tropaeolum majus* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *phlei* on *Phleum pratense* in U.S.A., 528.
- *tropaeoli* on *Tropaeolum majus* in Ceylon, 197.
- *variabile* on spinach in Turkey, 350.
- Hevea brasiliensis*, see Rubber.
- Hibiscus esculentus*, *Ascochyta abelmoschi* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in India, 172.
- , cotton leaf curl virus on, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 184.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- (?) — mosaic virus on *Malvastrum coromandelianum* in India, 216.
- , *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 172.
- , *Pythium indicum* on, in India, 572; host range of, 573.
- seed treatment in U.S.A., 347.
- *rosa-sinensis*, *Ascochyta abelmoschi* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- Hippeastrum vittatum*, *Stagonospora curtisii* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- Holly (*Ilex*), *Phoma citricarpa* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- Hollyhock (*Althaea*), *Puccinia malvacearum* on, in Turkey, 115.
- Honey, *Saccharomyces*, *Torula*, and *Zygosaccharomyces* in, 251.
- Hops (*Humulus*), *Botrytis cinerea* on, 250.
- , chlorotic hop disease of, in England, 43.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- mosaic virus on hops in England, 42, 295.
- nettlehead virus on hops in England, 42, 43.
- , *Pseudoperonospora humuli* on, in Spain, 386; U.S.A., 174, 509; control, 174, 248, 509; varietal reaction to, 296.
- , small hop disease of, in England, 43.
- , *Sphaerotheca humuli* on, in U.S.A., 174; varietal reaction to, 296.
- split leaf blotch in England, 43.
- , *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in England, 94, 584; legislation against, in England and Wales, 160; pathogenicity of, 584; varietal reaction to, 94, 296.
- Hordeum*, *Puccinia hordei* on, in Iran, 227.
- , — *hordei-maritimi* on, morphology of, 518.
- *distichon*, *Septoria passerinii* on, in U.S.A., 528.
- [*Hordeum*] *Ieporinum*, *Ophiobolus graminis* on, in Australia, 559.
- *murinum*, *Puccinia glumarum* on, in Turkey, 114; morphology of, 518.
- *nodosum*, *Septoria passerinii* on, in U.S.A., 528.
- *tetrastichum*, *Tilletia panicii* on, in Rumania, 448.
- *vulgare*, see Barley.
- Hormiscium gelatinosum* on timber, 546.
- Hormodendrum* on citrus in U.S.A., 562.
- on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in England, 399; biochemistry of, 399.
- , *Schizophyllum commune* on, in France, 241.
- Hortons, use of, against *Actinomyces scabies* on potato, 193.
- D.P., use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 157.
- Hosackia americana*, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
- Hot-water seed treatment against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 588; *Corynebacterium michiganense* on tomato, 592; *Hypomyces solani* f. *cucurbitae* on *Cucurbita moschata*, squash, and vegetable marrow, 308; *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, 71; *Ophiobolus myabeanus* on rice, 411; *Phoma lingam* on crucifers, 343; *Ustilago nuda*, 316; *Xanthomonas campestris* on crucifers, 343; *X. incanae* on *Matthiola incana*, 275.
- treatment against *Erwinia phytophthora* on *Deltphinium*, 477; plant diseases, 52; *Puccinia menthae* on mint, 53; sugar-cane chlorotic streak, 45.
- Humicola* on cotton textiles, 487.
- Humulus*, see Hops.
- Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus*) loose bud in Holland, 728.
- , *Penicillium* on, in Canada, 281.
- , *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 135.
- Hyalesthes obsoletus* transmitting tomato big bud virus, 48.
- Hyalodendron* on almond in Sicily, 286.
- *album* on clover, *Lathyrus latifolius*, lucerne, and pea, 237.
- on sweet pea in Canada, E. Africa, Europe, and U.S.A., 236; culture of, 237; *Erostrotheca multififormis* (?) perfect state of, 236.
- Hydnum abietis* on timber and *Tsuga heterophylla* in U.S.A., 547.
- *coralloides*, effect of glutinosis on, 146.
- *septentrionale* on *Acer* in U.S.A., 502.
- Hydrangea*, *Microsphaera polonica* on, control, 422.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- Hydrochloric acid, concentrated, use of, as a seed treatment for tomato, 587.
- Hydrogen-ion concentration in relation to growth of plant parasites, 433.
- of culture media in relation to *Gibberella zeae*, 232.
- of soil in relation to calcium deficiency on potato, 195; *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *niveum* f. 2 on melon, 347; *F. vasinfectum* on cotton, 177; manganese excess in lucerne, 188; potato central necrosis, 93; *Sclerotium cepivorum*, 7; *S. rolfsii*, 95.
- Hydroquinone, use of, against peach X-disease virus, 532.
- 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, fungistatic properties of esters of, 142, 143.
- Hydroxyethylheptadecylglyoxalidine, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 371.

- Hydroxymercurinitrophenol, bio-assay of, 434.
 —, use of, against *Bacterium marginatum* on *Gladiolus*, 364.
 8-hydroxyquinoline, fungistatic properties of, 484.
 —, use of, as a timber preservative, 547.
 — sulphate, toxicity of, to *Didymella lycopersici*, 112.
 — —, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147; peach X-disease virus, 532; *Venturia inaequalis*, 371.
Hylurgopinus rufipes transmitting *Ceratostomella ulmi*, 50, 301.
Hymenochaete agglutinans on *Salix* in U.S.A., 207.
 Hymenomyces, toxicity of, to *Pullularia pululans*, 211.
 —, use of perforated cards in preliminary identification of, 99.
Hyparrhenia rufa, *Cerebella andropogonis* on, in Brazil, 100.
Hypholoma fasciculare in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
 — *subatrata*, toxicity of, to *Staphylococcus aureus*, 252.
 Hyphomycetes, technique for counting spores of, 534.
Hypomyces solani f. *cucurbitae* on *Cucurbita moschata*, squash, and vegetable marrow in U.S.A., 307.
Hypoxyylon asarcodes on tea, 260.
Hystrix patula, *Septoria passerinii* on, in U.S.A., 528.
 Ialine ordinary disinfectant, use of, against *Ceratostomella fimbriata* on *Hevea* rubber, 336.
Idiodonus heidemanni transmitting aster yellows virus, 592.
Ilex, see Holly.
Impatiens biflora, antibiotics from, 576.
 Impregol, use of, as a timber preservative, 208.
 IN 5446 and IN 7331, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on tomato, 164.
Inocybe, toxicity of, 46.
 Insecticides and fungicides, catalogue of, 286.
 Insects, *Cordyceps olivascens* on, in U.S.A., 235.
 —, food losses caused by, 576.
 —, microbiological examination of stools in, 235.
 —, technique for controlling feeding of, 235.
 International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, Article 57 of, 499; text-book of, 497.
Inula salicina, *Cystopus tragopogi* on, in Rumania, 543.
 Iodized wrappings, use of, against moulds on fruit, 284.
Ipomoea batatas, see Sweet potato.
 — *pes-caprae*, *Meliola pontualii* on, in Brazil, 347.
 Iris, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325, 527.
 —, *Leptosphaeria heterospora* on, in England, 78.
 —, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
 —, *Penicillium* on, in Canada, 282.
 —, *Sclerotium delphinii* on, in U.S.A., 512.
 —, — *tuliparum* can infect, 135.
 Iron in relation to plant nutrition, 42.
 — citrate, use of, against peach and plum chlorosis, 430.
 — deficiency in apple, 74; flax, 322; fruit trees in U.S.A., 424; plants in Denmark, 337; manganese and some other metals in relation to, 336.
 — dimethyldithiocarbamate, use of, against *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371; *Venturia pirina*, 481.
 [Iron] dimethylthiocarbamate, fungicidal properties of, 415.
 — ethylenediaminodithiocarbamate, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
 — naphthenate, use of, as a timber preservative, 547; for rot-proofing cotton textiles, 378.
 — oxide, use of, for rot-proofing textiles, 377.
 — salts, use of, against *Endothia parasitica* on chestnut, 589.
 — sulphate, use of, against iron deficiency in apple, 74; *Podosphaera leucotricha* on apple, 273; with dithane against *Uromyces appendiculatus* on bean, 248; with lime-sulphur, 370; against *Erysiphe polygoni* on bean, 248; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 248; *Uromyces appendiculatus* on bean, 248.
 — sulphide, colloidal, use of, as an adhesive, 428.
Irpex destruens on tea, 260.
Isariopsis griseola on bean in Tanganyika Territory, 159; Turkey, 351.
 Iscobrome, use of, as a soil disinfectant, 305.
 Jak tree (*Artocarpus integer*), *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — —, *Rhizopus artocarpi* on, in Assam, 411.
Jatropha curcas, *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
Juglans regia, see Walnut.
 Juglon, toxicity of, to plant plasma, 488.
 Juncaceae, *Myriosclerotinia* on, in Denmark, 498.
Juniperus, *Caldesia sabina* on, in Spain, 386.
 —, *Gymnosporangium clavipes* and *G. globosum* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
 — *chinensis femina*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
 — *communis saxatilis*, *Gymnosporangium sabiniae* on, in Turkey, 115.
 — *virginiana*, *Gymnosporangium globosum* and *G. juniperi-virginianae* on, in U.S.A., 396.
 Jute (*Corchorus capsularis* and *C. olitorius*), *Cercospora corchori* on, in India, 524.
 —, (?) *Colletotrichum corchorum* on, effect of cultural solution of pathogen on, 380.
 —, *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in India, 71; transmission of, by seed, 71.
 —, textile, *Actinomyces*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Chaetomium indicum*, *Paecilomyces varioti*, and *Penicillium luteum* on, in India, 378.
 Kainit, use of, for destroying potato haulms, 150.
 Kale (*Brassica oleracea* var. *acephala*), *Phoma lingam* can infect, 306.
 Karbam, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 510.
Kochia scoparia, (?) *Pythium debaryanum* on, in U.S.A., 479.
Koeleria cristata, *Septoria quinqueseptata* on, in U.S.A., 528.
 Kohlrabi (*Brassica oleracea* var. *caulo-rapa*), *Alternaria brassicicola* on, in Ceylon, 197.
 Kojic acid, production of, by *Aspergillus flavus* and its toxicity to plant plasma, 488.
 Kolodust and Kolofog, use of, against *Puccinia graminis* on wheat, 358.
Kordyana celebensis on *Commelina* (?) *nudiflora* in Kenya, 312.
 Kromnek disease identical with tomato spotted wilt virus, 351.
 — — of dahlia, a strain of tomato spotted wilt virus, 118.
Kuehneola uredinis on blackberry in S. Africa, 144; U.S.A., 532; possible eradication of host by, 144.

- Laboulbeniaceae in Holland, 71.
Laburnum, *Uromyces genistae-tinctoriae* on, in England, 462.
 (?) *Labyrinthula macrocystis* on *Zostera marina* in U.S.A., 191.
Lactuca, see Lettuce.
Lambertella corni-maris on apple, 368, 369; production of toxins by, 369.
Lamium purpureum, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* can infect, 365.
 Larch (*Larix*), *Dasyscypha willkommii* on, 456; in U.S.A., introduced from Great Britain, 503; specific reaction to, in Italy, 544.
 —, frost injury to, causing die-back in England, 500.
 —, (?) *Sclerotinia fuckeliana* on, in U.S.A., 503.
Larix, see Larch.
 Larkspur, see *Delphinium*.
 Lateritin-I, production of, by *Fusarium lateritium*, identical with enniatin A, 488.
Lathyrus, *Ascochyta pinodella* on, specific reaction to, 270.
 —, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
 —, *Mycosphaerella pinodes* on, specific reaction to, 270.
 — *latifolius*, *Hyalodendron album* can infect, 237.
 — *macrorhizus*, *Uromyces fabae* on, in France, 258.
 — *odoratus*, see Sweet pea.
 — *tingitanus*, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
Laurus nobilis, *Tetracystum lauri* on, in Belgium, 463.
 Lauryl isoquinolinium bromide, use of, against *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38.
 Lavender (*Lavandula*), *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in Italy, 551.
 Lead arsenate, use of, with fungicides, 428.
 — ethylenediaminodithiocarbamate, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
 Leather, *Aspergillus glaucus* and *A. niger* on, 485.
 —, *Cladosporium herbarum* on, 250.
 — industry, mycology of, 485.
 —, mildews on, in U.S.A., 535; control, 379, 535.
 —, moulds on, in U.S.A., 251; control, 191; technique for testing fungicides against, 252; for testing for resistance to, 148.
 —, *Penicillium* and *Trichophyton* on, 485.
Ledum palustre, *Chrysomyxa ledi* on, in Siberia, 301.
 Leek (*Allium porrum*), *Sclerotium cepivorum* can infect, 135.
 Legislation against plant diseases in Algeria, 419; Ceylon, 556; Fiji, 160; the Gold Coast, 508; Great Britain, 160, 448; Hawaii, 352; New S. Wales, 70; Persia, 352; Puerto Rico, 352; Queensland, 208, 496; the Solomon Islands, 407; S. Africa, 351; U.S.A., 96, 256, 352; Western Australia, 569.
 — — —, present inadequacy of, 448.
 — governing the sale of plant protectants in Belgium, 432.
 —, see also Plant Quarantine.
 Leguminosae, diseases of, in Germany, 248.
 —, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
 Lemon (*Citrus limonia*) chlorosis in Java, 131.
 — collapse in U.S.A., 471.
 —, *Deuterophoma tracheiphila* on, in Italy, 317; Turkey, 349.
 —, *Diaporthe citri* on, in New Zealand, 116.
 —, *Diplodia natalensis* on, in U.S.A., 313.
 — dry bark, 470; in U.S.A., 232, 471, 519.
 —, *Exosporina fawcetti* on, in U.S.A., 103.
 —, frost injury to, *Exosporina fawcetti* in relation to, 103.
 [Lemon], magnesium deficiency in, in U.S.A. 520.
 —, *Oospora citri-aurantii* on, in U.S.A., 250.
 —, *Phoma citricarpa* on, in S. Africa, 564.
 —, phosphorus deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
 — shell bark in U.S.A., 183, 471.
 —, 'wood pocket' disease of, in U.S.A., 129, 471; (?) virus nature of, 129.
 Lentils (*Lens esculenta*), *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
 —, *Uromyces fabae* on, in Turkey, 114.
Lentinus kauffmanii on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
 — *lepidus*, formation of methyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate by, 167.
 — — in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
 — — on timber, 397.
 —, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 10.
 —, use of, as a test organism for wood preservatives, 303.
Lenzites abietina, use of, as a test organism for wood preservatives, 303.
 — *sepiaria* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
 — — on timber, 397; in Canada, 343.
 — *trabea* on timber, 397.
Lepidoptera, *Cordyceps venezuelensis* on larva of, in Venezuela, 235.
 —, *Cordyceps washingtonensis* on larva of, U.S.A., 235.
Lepidosaphes beckii, *Myiophagus ucrainicus* on, in Bermuda and U.S.A., 420.
 — *newsteadii*, *Myiophagus ucrainicus* on, in Bermuda, 420.
 — *ulmi*, *Myiophagus ucrainicus* on, in Canada, 420.
Leptosphaeria on oats in England, 462.
 — *avenae* on oats in Belgium, 463.
 — *avenaria* f. sp. *triticea* on barley and wheat in Canada, 230; *Septoria avenae* f. sp. *triticea*, in perfect state of, 230.
 — *coniothyrium* on blackberry in U.S.A., 512.
 — *heterospora* on *Iris germanica* and *I. pumila* *formosa* in England, 78.
 — *nigrans* on wheat in England, 462.
 — *salvinii* on rice, varietal reaction to, 176.
Lespedeza, *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
 —, *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
 Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* and *L. scariola*), *Alternaria sonchi* on, in Brazil, 100.
 —, *Aphanomyces* on, in U.S.A., 10.
 —, *Botrytis cinerea* on, in England, 108.
 —, *Bremia lactucae* on, in England, 108; Rumania, 274.
 —, *Cercospora longissima* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 —, cucumber mosaic virus on, in Great Britain, 215; transmission of, by *Myzus ornatus*, 215.
 —, dandelion yellow mosaic virus on, transmission of, by *Macrosiphum solani* and *Myzus ornatus*, 214; *Nasania ribicola*, 215.
 —, *Marssonina panattoniana* on, in Turkey, 349.
 — mosaic virus on lettuce in New Zealand, 110; transmission of, by *Myzus persicae*, 214; *Nasania ribicola*, 215; seed, 116, 215.
 —, *Pseudomonas marginalis* on, in Argentina, 404.
 —, *Rhizoctonia* on, control, 126.
 —, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Rumania, 274.
 — seed treatments, 399.
 —, *Septoria lactucae* on, in Queensland, 399; Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 — tipburn, control, 170.
 —, tomato spotted wilt virus on, in S. Africa, 351; kromek identical with, 351.

- Leveillula taurica* on chilli in Abyssinia, 406.
 Leytosan, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 157.
Libocedrus decurrens, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
 Light, effect of, on resistance of rice leaves to *Piricularia oryzae*, 444.
 —, see also Ultra-violet rays.
 Lignasan, use of, against timber sap stain, 167.
Ligustrum lucidum, *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, control, 276.
 Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), *Phyllactinia suffulta* on, in Switzerland, 158.
 Lily (*Lilium*), *Colletotrichum lilii* on, control, 186.
 — diseases, paper on, 281.
 —, effect of fungicides on bulbs of, 512.
 Lima bean, see *Phaseolus lunatus*.
 Lime (*Citrus aurantiifolia*), *Botryodiplodia theobromae*, *Diplodia*, and *Fusarium* on, in the Gold Coast, 509.
 —, *Ganoderma lucidum* on, in the Gold Coast, 508.
 —, mineral deficiencies in, and *Penicillium* on, in the Gold Coast, 509.
 Lime, use of, against *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *coffae* on coffee, 472; as a timber preservative, 52.
 —, hydrated, use of, against *Curvularia* (?) *lunata* on *Gladiolus*, 525.
 — sulphur injury to apple, 369, 370, 529.
 —, use of, with colloidal sulphur against *Uromyces fabae* on broad bean, 116.
 Lime tree (*Tilia*), *Fumago vagans* on, in U.S.A., 502.
 —, *Schizophyllum commune* on, in France, 241.
 Linseed, see Flax.
Linum usitatissimum, see Flax.
Liquidambar, *Polyporus obtusus* on, in North America, 266.
Lolium, *Claviceps purpurea* on, in Italy, 68.
 —, *Phialea temulenta* on, in New Zealand, 116.
 —, *Puccinia lolivina* on, in Spain and Switzerland, 158; specimen previously referred to *P. glumarum*, 158.
 —, *multiflorum*, *Corticium solani* can infect, 304.
 —, *Ovularia lolii* on, in Argentina, 257.
 —, *perenne*, *Phialea temulenta* on, in New Zealand, 284; U.S.A., 478.
 —, *remotum*, *Chaetomium kunzeanum* on, (?) toxicity of, to livestock, 125.
Lotus, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Switzerland, 480.
 —, *corniculatus* and *L. uliginosus*, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
 Lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), bacterial flora of, 293.
 —, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325, 526.
 —, clover club-leaf virus on, transmission of, by *Agallioopsis novella*, 239.
 —, *Corticium solani* on, 187, 304.
 —, *Corynebacterium insidiosum* on, in Canada, 554; U.S.A., 24, 121, 466.
 —, dwarf virus on vine in U.S.A., 217.
 —, *Hyalodendron album* can infect, 237.
 —, manganese excess in, in Australia, 188.
 —, mosaic virus on chilli in Canada, 187.
 —, *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
 —, *Peronospora trifoliorum* on, in U.S.A., 283.
 —, *Pseudopeziza medicaginis* on, in Rumania, 274; Spain, 114; U.S.A., 24; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 24.
 —, *Pyrenopeziza medicaginis* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
 —, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, 283; in Denmark, 365; Switzerland, 480; host range of, 365; resistance to, 480.
 [Lucerne], *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, resistance to, 125.
 —, *Uromyces medicaginis* on, in Canada, 554.
 —, *Urophlyctis alfalfae* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
 —, *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in Denmark, 410.
 —, witches' broom virus on lucerne, geographical distribution of, 96.
 Lunasan, use of, as a seed treatment for flax and hemp, 421.
Lunospora identical with *Selenophoma*, 100.
 —, taxonomy of, 324.
 —, *avenae* on *Avena elatior* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis* var. *stomaticola*, 324.
 —, *bromigena* synonym of *Selenophoma bromigena*, 324.
 —, *culmifida* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis* var. *stomaticola*, 324.
 —, *curva* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis*, 324.
 —, *lunata* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis* var. *stomaticola*, 324.
 —, *oxyzyspora* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis*, 324.
 —, *penniseti* and *L. suboxyzyspora* synonyms of *Selenophoma donacis* var. *stomaticola*, 324.
 Lupin (*Lupinus*), bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
 —, *Botrytis* on, in U.S.A., 126.
 —, — cinerea on, in U.S.A., 66, 126.
 —, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
 —, *Ceratophorum setosum* on, in U.S.A., 525.
 —, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
 —, *Cylindrocladium scoparium* on, in England, 462.
 —, *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
 —, *Erysiphe martii* on, in Switzerland, 158.
 —, — (?) *polygoni* and *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 126.
 —, *Glomerella cingulata* on, in U.S.A., 367.
 —, *Myrothecium roridum* on, in England, 462.
 —, *Polyporus schweinitzii* can infect, 546.
 —, *Puccinia lupinicola* on, in U.S.A., 240.
 —, *Rhizoctonia* and *Sclerotinia* on, in U.S.A., 126.
 —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in U.S.A., 125, 126.
 —, *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, susceptibility to, 125.
 Lycomarasin, toxicity of, to tomato, 453.
Lycopersicon esculentum, see Tomato.
 Lysol, use of, against *Fusarium* and *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476.
Macadamia ternifolia, manganese excess in, in Hawaii, 154.
Macrophoma imperfect state of *Botryosphaeria ribis*, 409.
 —, *dalmatica* on olive in Turkey, 349.
 —, *kuwatsu-kai* on apple in China, 242.
 —, *pinca*, *Sphaeroopsis ellisii* var. *cromogena* a form of, 100.
 —, *theicola* on tea, 260.
Macrophomina, taxonomy of, 387.
 —, *phaseoli* on bean in Canada, 55; Italy, 551; U.S.A., 65.
 —, on broad bean in Sardinia, 552.
 —, on groundnut in U.S.A., 60, 171.
 —, on jute in India, 71; transmission of, by seed, 71.
 —, on lavender in Italy, 551.
 —, on potato in France, 536.
 —, on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7, 66.

- [*Macrophomina phaseoli*] on sweet potato in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
 — synonym of *M. phaseolina*, 388.
 — *phaseolina*, synonymy of, 388.
Macrosiphoniella sanhorni transmitting potato virus Y, 334.
Macrosiphum circumflexum transmitting potato virus Y, 334.
 — *euphorbiae* transmitting potato virus Y, 441.
 — *solani* transmitting dandelion yellow mosaic virus, 214; potato virus Y, 334.
 — *solanifolii* transmitting *Canna* mosaic virus, 364; potato virus Y, 334.
Macrosporium on beet in U.S.A., pathogenicity of, 402.
 — *carthami* on safflower, 549.
 — *cookei* synonym of *Alternaria cookei*, 351.
 — *poissoni* on eggplant in Madagascar, 81.
 — *ramulosum* on parsley in Spain, 387.
Macrosteles divisus transmitting aster yellows virus, 107, 353.
 Magnesium deficiency in apple in Holland, 427; New Zealand, 117, 369; boysenberry in S. Africa, 140; *Chrysanthemum* in England, 113; grapefruit, lemon, and orange in U.S.A., 520; pear in Holland, 427; sweet potato in U.S.A., 341; tobacco in Italy, 201; tomato in England, 49; U.S.A., 341; youngberry in S. Africa, 140.
 — in relation to plant nutrition, 42.
 — carbonate, use of, against magnesium deficiency in apple, 117.
 — sulphate, use of, against magnesium deficiency in apple, 117, 428; boysenberry, 141; *Chrysanthemum*, 113; orange, 521; pear, 428; sweet potato, 341; tomato, 50, 341.
Mahonia, see *Barberry*.
 Maize (*Zea mays*), *Candida* sp. and *Cephalosporium acremonium* on, in U.S.A., 417.
 —, *Cochliobolus heterostrophus* on, varietal reaction to, 355.
 —, *Corticium sasakii* on, factors affecting, 447.
 —, damping-off of, control, 53.
 —, *Diplodia zeae* on, in U.S.A., 278, 510; factors affecting, 120.
 —, *Gibberella fujikuroi* on, in Brazil, 100, 122; U.S.A., 278, 417, 510.
 —, *zeae* on, in Brazil, 122; U.S.A., 278, 510.
 —, *Helminthosporium turcicum* on, in Brazil, 100; Turkey, 350; breeding against, 120; varietal reaction to, 120, 355.
 —, mosaic virus in Fiji, 9.
 —, moulds on, in U.S.A., 417.
 —, on, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
 —, *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
 —, *Puccinia* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 —, *maydis* on, in Switzerland, 220.
 —, *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
 —, *Sclerospora graminicola* on, in Fiji, 9.
 —, *maydis* on, in Central Africa, 376.
 —, *sacchari* on, in Fiji, 98.
 —, seedling disease of, control, 120.
 —, *Sphacelotheca reiliana* on, 468; in New Zealand, 116.
 —, storage disorders of, 120.
 —, streak virus on barley in S. Africa, 351.
 — — on maize in Central Africa, 376; S. Africa, 351; Tanganyika Territory, 159; resistance of oats and rye to, 351.
 — — on *Poa abyssinica* and wheat in S. Africa, 351.
 —, *Ustilago maydis* on, 468; in Hawaii, 95; Turkey, 115.
 —, *Xanthomonas stewarti* on, in Italy and U.S.A., 70.
Malcomia littorea, *Matthiola incana* mosaic can infect, 114.
Malus pumila, see *Apple*.
 Malvaceae, *Puccinia malvacearum* on, in Turkey, 115.
Malvastrum coromandelianum, (?) *Hibiscus esculentus* mosaic virus on, in India, 216.
Malvaviscus arboreus, cotton leaf curl virus on, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 184.
 Man, toxicity of mercury compounds to, 317.
 Mandarin orange, see *Orange*.
 Manganese deficiency in apple, 74; beet, 583; in Denmark, 410; fruit trees in U.S.A., 424; horticultural crops in Denmark, 337; oats, 583; in Canada, 359; pea, 584; in Finland, 337; plants, 336; potato and rye in Denmark, 410; soy-bean in U.S.A., 507; strawberry, resistance to, 337.
 —, effect of physical treatments on the fixation and release of, in soil, 154.
 —, excess in bean, 337; cabbage, 93; lucerne in Australia, 188; *Macadamia ternifolia* in Hawaii, 154; oats, resistance to, 337; potato, causing stem streak necrosis, 40; strawberry, resistance to, 337; swede, 93.
 —, in relation to iron deficiency, 336; plant nutrition, 42.
 —, toxicity of, to bean, 337; plants, 336.
 —, citrate, use of, against peach and plum chlorosis, 430.
 —, ethylene bisdithiocarbamate, use of, against *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 8.
 —, sulphate, use of, against manganese deficiency in soy-bean, 507.
 Mango (*Mangifera indica*), *Bacterium mangiferae* on, in S. Africa, 31.
 —, *Cercospora mangiferae* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 —, *Diplodia recifensis* on, in Brazil, 77; transmission of, by *Xyleborus affinis*, 77.
 —, *Physalospora perseae* on, in S. Africa, 30; (?) previously attributed to *Gloeosporium mangiferae*, 30.
 —, *Pseudomonas mangiferae-indicae* on, in India, 533; culture of, 533.
 Mangold (*Beta vulgaris*), beet yellows virus on, 211.
 —, *Pythium* on, in England, 462.
 —, virus diseases, legislation against, in England and Wales, 448.
 —, see also *Beet*.
Manihot utilisima, see *Cassava*.
 Maple, see *Acer*.
Marasmius in Ceylon, revision of, 101.
 — *equicrinis* on tea, 261.
 — *palmivorus* on oil palm in the Belgian Congo, 463.
 — *pernicius* on cacao in Tobago, 223.
 — *pulcher* on tea, 261.
 Marigold, see *Calendula officinalis*.
Marmor melonis, muskmelon mosaic virus named, 271.
 Marrow, see *Vegetable marrow*.
Marssonina kirchneri synonym of *Cercospora anethi*, 400.
 — *melonis* on melon and watermelon in U.S.A., 60.
 — *panattoniana* on chicory and lettuce in Turkey, 349.
 — *rosae* imperfect state of *Diplocarpon rosae*, 475.
Massaria theicola on tea, 260.
Matricaria inodora, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.

- Matthiola incana*, *Corticium solani* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- , *Fusarium oxysporum* f. *matthioli* on, in U.S.A., 476.
- , leaf spots in New S. Wales, 275.
- , mosaic in New S. Wales, 275; U.S.A., 567; transmission of, by aphids, 567.
- , *Pythium*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, and *Xanthomonas incanae* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- , var. *annua*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. *matthioli* on, in U.S.A., 476.
- , —, — mosaic in Spain, 114; transmission of, to cauliflower, *Malcomia littorea*, and wallflower, 114.
- Mealybugs, *Aspergillus* (?) *parasiticus* on, in U.S.A., 132.
- Meat, frozen, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Cladosporium herbarum*, *Penicillium*, and *Sporotrichum carnis* on, 250.
- Medicago, bacterial flora of, 293.
- , *Urophlyctis alfalfae* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *lupulina*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Switzerland, 480; control, 283.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, resistance to, 125.
- , *sativa*, see Lucerne.
- Medical research, statistical methods in, 438.
- Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*), *Gymnosporangium confusum* on, in Turkey, 115.
- Melampsora* on poplar in Great Britain, 590.
- , *allii-populina* on poplar in Turkey, 115.
- , *arctica* on *Salix* in U.S.A., 207.
- , *lini* on flax in Argentina, 67, 412; Eire, 235; Turkey, 114; Uruguay, 133; physiologic races of, 412; varietal reaction to, 126, 133, 185, 236, 412.
- , *medusae* on *Populus angulata* in France, 257.
- Melampsorella caryophyllacearum* on *Abies bornmuelleriana* in Turkey, 115.
- Melanconium fuligineum* on vine in Costa Rica, 461; Queensland, 221; U.S.A., 409.
- Melandrium album* and *M. dioicum*, *Ustilago violacea* on, in England, 23.
- (?) *Melanops perseae* on avocado pear in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- Melanospora dammosa*, morphological and cultural characteristics of, 85.
- , *destruens* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- , —, production of perithecia by, 331.
- Melibiose broth, use of, for classifying yeasts, 46.
- Melica bulbosa* and *M. subulata*, *Spermospora subulata* on, in U.S.A., 527.
- Melilotus*, bacterial flora of, 293.
- , clover big-vein virus on, tumours caused by, 24; transmission of, by *Agallia constricta* and *Agallioptis novella*, 24.
- , *Helicobasidium purpureum* on, in Denmark, 410.
- , *alba*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- , *indica*, bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *officinalis*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- Meliola* on tea, 260.
- , *pontualii* on *Ipomaea pes-caprae*, in Brazil, 347.
- Melon (*Cucumis melo*), *Erwinia tracheiphila* on, in U.S.A., 175.
- , *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, 343.
- [Melon], *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *niveum* f. 1 on, 307.
- , —, —, — f. 2 on, 307; in U.S.A., 346.
- , *Marssonina melonis* on, in U.S.A., 60.
- , muskmelon mosaic virus on, in U.S.A., 271; host range of, 271; named *Marmor melonis*, 271.
- , *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on, control, 343.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- , *Sclerotium rolsfii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , see also Cantaloupe.
- Memnoniella echinata*, factors affecting growth and sporulation in, 487.
- , —, nutrition of, 291.
- , —, on cotton textiles, 487; in New Guinea, 487.
- , —, use of, as a test organism in proofing textiles, 84, 148, 438.
- Mentha*, (?) *Phyllactinia corylea* on, specific reaction to, 356.
- , *Puccinia menthae* on, control, 53; specific reaction to, 356.
- , *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, specific reaction to, 356.
- , *arvensis piperascens* and *M. crispa*, *Puccinia menthae* and *Sphaceloma mentha* on, breeding against, 120.
- , *piperita*, see Peppermint.
- , *spicata*, *Puccinia menthae* and *Sphaceloma menthae* on, breeding against, 120.
- Mercurated arsenate, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 371.
- Mercuric chloride, use of, against *Bacterium marginatum* on *Gladiolus*, 364, 422; *Cladosporium cucumerinum* and *Colletotrichum lagenarium* on cucumber, 109; *Corynebacterium sepedonicum* on potato, 38, 332; damping-off of seedlings, 204; *Erwinia amylovora* on apple, 138; *Fusicoccum amygdali* on peach, 569; *Hypomyces solani* f. *cucurbitae* on *Cucurbita moschata*, squash, and vegetable marrow, 308; *Macrophoma kuwatsui-kaii* on apple, 242; *Pseudomonas lacrymans* on cucumber, 109; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 569; *Sclerotium cepivorum* on shallot, 7, 549; *Valsa cincta* and *V. leucostoma* on peach, 569; *Xanthomonas campestris* on cabbage and cauliflower, 399; *X. vesicatoria*, 391.
- , cyanide, use of, against *Erwinia amylovora* on apple, 138; *Fusicoccum amygdali*, *Sclerotinia fructicola*, *Valsa cincta*, and *V. leucostoma* on peach, 569.
- Mercurous chloride, use of, against *Plasmodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213.
- Mercury alkylxychloride, bio-assay of, 434.
- , compounds, toxicity of, to man, 317.
- , —, organic, effect of cysteine on fungistatic properties of, 484.
- , —, —, use of, against *Fusarium caeruleum* on potato, 292; *Helminthosporium victoriae* on oats, 17; *Puccinia carthami* on safflower, 541; *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484; *Ustilago avenae* on oats, 517.
- , ethyl chloride, fungicidal properties of, 415.
- , injury to potato, 37.
- , ortho-chlorophenolate, bio-assay of, 434.
- , oxide, yellow, use of, against *Fusarium caeruleum* and *F. sambucinum* f. 6 on potato, 175.
- , oxyethyl alkyl silicate, fungicidal properties of, 415.
- , phenylacetate, bio-assay of, 434.
- , —, and mercury phenyl urea, fungicidal properties of, 415.
- , sulphanilate, bio-assay of, 434.

- Mertensia virginica*, cucumber mosaic virus on, in U.S.A., 282; host range of, 282; transmission of, by *Myzus persicae*, 282.
- Merulius lacrymans*, cytochemical changes of pine wood caused by, 504.
- , effect of electromagnetic waves on, 207.
- , in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- , on timber, 397.
- , toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- , use of, as a test organism for wood preservatives, 303.
- *niveus* on alder in U.S.A., 207.
- *pinastri* on timber in Australia, 302.
- Mespilus germanica*, see Medlar.
- Meta-cresyl acetate, use of, against micro-organisms on optical glass, 145.
- Metanitrobenzaldehyde, use of, with mercuric chloride against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.
- Metarrhizium glutinosum*, antibiotics from, 83.
- , synonym of *Myrothecium verrucaria*, 258.
- Methasan, use of, against *Coccomyces hiemalis* on cherry, 173.
- 2-methoxy-1,4-naphthoquinone, isolation of, from *Impatiens balsamina*, 367; fungicidal properties of, 367.
- Methyl bromide, use of, as a soil disinfectant, 305.
- , mercury phosphate, use of, as a seed treatment for radish, 168.
- *p*-methoxycinnamate, formation of, by *Leptinus lepidus*, 167.
- 2,2'-methylene bis, effect of, on prepared and synthetic rubber, 41.
- Micromyzus violae* transmitting celery mosaic virus, 323.
- Micro-organisms, rules of nomenclature for, 438.
- , thermophilic, review of, 177.
- Microsphaera* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
- *alni* var. *cinnamomi* on *Cinnamomum camphora* in U.S.A., 450.
- , var. *vaccinii* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- *alphitoides* on oak in Wales, 395.
- *polonica* on *Hydrangea opuloides*, control, 422.
- Mildews on cotton textiles, 84.
- , on leather in U.S.A., control, 535.
- , proofing agents for, 379.
- Milk, sour, *Oospora lactis* in, 250.
- , tinned, *Torula cremoris* and *T. sphaerica* in, 251.
- Mineral deficiencies in fruit trees in England, 243; in plants, symposium on, 42.
- Mint, see *Mentha*.
- Mites in fungus cultures, control, 222.
- Molasses, effect of, on germination of sugar-cane cuttings, 156.
- , *Torula* on, 251.
- , use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 156.
- Molybdenum, antagonism between certain heavy metals and, 322.
- , deficiency in cabbage and cauliflower, 401; oats in Tasmania, 17; mustard and tomato, 401.
- , use of, against iron deficiency in flax, 322.
- Monacrosporium ambrosium*, the ambrosia fungus of *Xyleborus fornicatus*, on tea in Ceylon, 70.
- Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30; *Sclerotinia vaccinii-corymbosi* synonym of, 30.
- Monilopsis aderholdi* renamed *Rhizoctonia aderholdi*, 101.
- *klebahnii* regarded as a variant of *Rhizoctonia aderholdi*, 101.
- Monochaetia* on *Cupressus sempervirens* in U.S.A., 455.
- *unicornis* on *Chamaecyparis thyoides* in U.S.A., 455.
- , on *Cupressus* in Kenya, 312, 455; specific reaction to, 312.
- , on *Cupressus lusitanica* in Tanganyika Territory, 224.
- Morus*, see Mulberry.
- Mosaic diseases, see under hosts.
- Moulds, mutability in, 148.
- , on cotton textiles, cellulolytic activity of, 486.
- , on food, 250; losses caused by, 576.
- , on leather in U.S.A., 251; control, 191; technique for testing fungicides against, 252; for testing resistance to, 148.
- , on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- , on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146, 147.
- , production of riboflavin by, 252.
- , technique for detecting, 145.
- Mucor, effect of, on various media, 552.
- , in soil, 467.
- , on groundnut in U.S.A., 61.
- , on maize in U.S.A., 417.
- , on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
- , on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- , on timber, control, 546.
- , on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
- *erectus*, action of trichothecin on, 437.
- *mucedo*, effect of glutinosis on, 146.
- , on food, 250.
- *racemosus*, effect of relative humidity on spore germination in, 18.
- , and *M. spinosus*, viability of, 534.
- Mulberry (*Morus*), *Septogloeum mori* on, in Turkey, 349.
- Musa paradisiaca*, see Plantain.
- *sapientum*, see Banana.
- *textilis*, abaca bunchy top virus on, in British N. Borneo, 21; (?) identical with banana bunchy top virus, 22; transmission of, by *Pentalonia caladii*, 421; *P. nigronevosa*, 236.
- , *Canna* mosaic can infect, 364.
- , cucumber mosaic virus on, transmission of, by *Aphis gossypii*, 236.
- Musarin, production of, by Meredith's actinomycete, 483; fungicidal properties of, 483.
- Mushroom (*Psalliota*) cultivation, 61; in U.S.S.R., 9.
- , *Dactylium* on, 552.
- , — *dendroides* on, 552, 592.
- , disease control, 347.
- , influence of casing soils on cropping of, 61.
- , 'mummy disease' in Switzerland, 273.
- , *Myceliophthora lutea* on, in U.S.A., 215; forms of, 215.
- , *Mycogone perniciosa* on, 592; control, 405.
- , *Pseudobalsamia microspora* on, 347; in Argentina, 215.
- , *Pseudomonas tolaasi* on, 592; in England, 111.
- , *Vorticellium malthousei* on, 592.
- , — *psalliota* on, 592; in England, 110.
- , see also *Volvaria*.
- Muskmelon mosaic virus on melon in U.S.A., 271; named *Marmor melonis*, 271; host range of, 271.
- Mustard (*Brassica alba* and *B. nigra*), boron deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- , *Cercospora brassicae* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , Chinese (*Brassica juncea*), *Alternaria brassicae* on, in Ceylon, 196.
- , —, *Cercospora brassicicola* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- , *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.

- [Mustard], molybdenum deficiency in, control, 401.
- Myceliophthora lutea* on mushroom in U.S.A., 215; forms of, 215.
- Mycobacteriaceae, taxonomy of, 513.
- Mycoderma* on flax fibres, 379.
- on food, 251.
- on hemp fibres, 379.
- Mycogone* on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- *perniciosa* on mushroom, 592; control, 405.
- Mycorrhiza in relation to forest soils, 192.
- of *Asparagus sprengeri*, *Calendula officinalis*, chilli, *Colocasia antiquorum*, *Coreopsis tinctoria*, *Cryptostegia grandiflora*, and *Datura stramonium* in Egypt, 290.
- of ferns in Poland, 535.
- of *Gerbera jamesonii*, *Iris*, *Petunia hybrida*, *Solanum nigrum*, sunflower, *Withania somnifera*, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, and *Zinnia elegans* in Egypt, 290.
- Mycosphaerella areola* on cotton in Brazil, 100; *Cercosporiella gossypii* imperfect state of, 100.
- *danubialis* on rice in Rumania, 381.
- *fragariae* on strawberry in Brazil, 100; Madagascar, 81; U.S.A., 430; breeding against, 28; control, 354; *Ramularia tulasnei* imperfect state of, 100; varietal reaction to, 28, 176.
- *heimii* on *Eucalyptus obliqua* in Madagascar, 80.
- *musicola* on banana in Africa, 572; British Honduras, 412; (?) in Fiji, 9.
- *pinodes* on *Lathyrus*, specific reaction to, 270.
- on pea in U.S.A., 270; Victoria, 591.
- *pueraricola* on *Pueraria hirsuta* in U.S.A., 478; *Cercospora pueraricola* imperfect state of, 479.
- *rabiei* on *Cicer arietinum* in India, 315.
- *rosigena* on rose in U.S.A., 524.
- *sentina* on pear in France, 425; U.S.A., 429.
- Mycotox, use of, as a seed treatment for cotton, 574.
- 4, use of, against *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* on bean, 435.
- Myiophagus ucrainicus* on *Lepidosaphes beckii* in Bermuda, 420; U.S.A., 420.
- on *Lepidosaphes newsteadi* in Bermuda, 420.
- on *Lepidosaphes ulmi* in Canada, 420.
- on *Pseudococcus citri* and *P. longispinus*, 420.
- Myosotis arvensis*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- Myriosclerotinia* on Cyperaceae and Juncaceae in Denmark, 498.
- *scirpicola* on *Scirpus lacustris* in Denmark, 498.
- (?) *Myrothecium* on cotton textiles in New Guinea, 487.
- *inundatum* on cotton textiles, 487.
- *roridum* in Europe and U.S.A., 259.
- on cotton textiles, 487.
- on cowpea in India, 309; U.S.A., 10.
- on lupin in England, 462.
- on pansy in Canada, 555.
- on potato in England, 462.
- on soy-bean in U.S.A., 10.
- on tomato in England, 462.
- *verrucaria* in Europe and U.S.A., 259.
- *Metarrhizium glutinosum* synonym of, 258.
- on cotton textiles, 487.
- , production of glutinosis by, 145.
- , use of, as a test organism in rot-proofing textiles, 84, 148.
- Myxomycetes, list of, in U.S.A., 451; Virginia, 45.
- Myxosporium corticola* on apple and pear in France, 241.
- Myzus circumflexus* transmitting *Canna* mosaic, 364; celery calico virus, 323.
- *ornatus* transmitting cucumber mosaic virus, 215; dandelion yellow mosaic virus, 214; potato virus Y, 334.
- *persicae*, *Entomophthora coronata* on, in U.S.A., 321; culture of, 321.
- transmitting beet mosaic virus, 54, 270; beet yellows virus, 107, 211; *Canna* mosaic virus, 364; cucumber mosaic virus, 282; lettuce mosaic virus, 214; papaw ring spot virus, 431; potato leaf roll virus, 87, 493; potato virus disease, 124, 150, 538; potato virus Y, 334, 441; spinach yellow dwarf virus, 345; western cucumber mosaic virus, 323.
- *solani* transmitting celery calico virus, 323.
- Naemacyclus niveus* on pine in Kenya, 312.
- Naphtha, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 58.
- Napicladium andropogonis* synonym of *Curvularia andropogonis*, 44.
- Narcissus*, *Armillaria mellea* on, in New S. Wales, 275; U.S.A., 134.
- decline and dry scale rot in U.S.A., 134.
- , *Fusarium bulbigenum* on, in New S. Wales, 524; U.S.A., 134, 422, 512; control, 422, 477, 512, 524; factors affecting, 422.
- mild mosaic in New S. Wales, 524.
- mosaic virus in New S. Wales, 524; U.S.A., 134.
- , *Ramularia vallisumbrosae* on, in Denmark, 411; U.S.A., 134.
- , *Rhizopus stolonifer*, *Sclerotinia narcissicola*, and *S. polyblastis* on, in U.S.A., 134.
- , *Sclerotium delphinii* and *S. rolfii* on, in U.S.A., 134.
- , *tuliparum* can infect, 135.
- , *Stagonospora curtisii* on, in New S. Wales, 275, 524; U.S.A., 134.
- Nasonovia ribicola* transmitting dandelion yellow mosaic virus and lettuce mosaic virus, 215.
- Naucoria semi-orbicularis*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- Nectria* on tea, 261.
- *cacaoicola* on cacao in Madagascar, 80.
- *cinnabarina* on currants, 189.
- on elm, varietal reaction to, 166.
- on plum, 188.
- on tea, 260.
- *cucurbitula* on pine in U.S.A., 267; *Aphrophora saratogensis* in relation to, 267.
- on spruce in Scotland, 501.
- *galligena* on apple in Eire, 75; France, 425; effect of growth substances on, 285; testing of fungicides against, 244; varietal reaction to, 75.
- on cherry in Rumania, 274.
- on pear in France, 425.
- Nematodes, capturing of, by *Arthrobotrys* and *Dactylella*, 235.
- Nematospora coryli* on cotton in S. Africa, 361, 475; transmission of, by *Dysdercus*, 361.
- *gossypii* on cotton in S. Africa, 361, 473, 475; transmission of, by *Dysdercus*, 361.
- *phaseoli* can infect cotton, 362.
- Neofabraea malicorticis* on apple and pear, geographical distribution of, 96.

- Neovossia horrida* on rice, 468; in Assam, 411.
 — *indica* on wheat in India, 315.
Nephelium lappaceum, *Phomopsis* on, in Malaya, 464.
Neurospora crassa, culture of, 289.
 — — on optical glass, control, 145.
 Nickel in relation to iron deficiency, 336.
Nicotiana hybrid tumour, comparison of, with other plant tumours, 178.
 —, tobacco streak virus on, 65.
 — *alata*, *Stemphylium consortiale* can infect, 40.
 — *glutinosa*, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
 — —, cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
 — —, para-tobacco mosaic virus on, course of infection in, 262.
 — —, *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
 — —, tobacco leaf curl virus can infect, 544.
 — —, — mosaic virus on, 390; course of infection in, 262.
 — —, — necrosis virus can infect, 22.
 — —, tomato virus disease can infect, 203.
 — *repanda*, cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
 — —, *Peronospora tabacina* on, in Northern Mexico, 163; U.S.A., 391.
 — *rustica*, *Peronospora tabacina* on, in Australia, 587.
 — —, potato yellow dwarf virus on, electron microscopy of, 538.
 — —, production of nicotine sulphate from, 587.
 — *syvestris*, cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
 — —, tobacco leaf curl virus can infect, 544.
 — —, tobacco mosaic virus can infect, 390.
 — *tabacum*, see Tobacco.
 Nicotine sulphate, production of, from *Nicotiana rustica*, 587.
Nigrospora oryzae on rice in Malaya, 464.
 — — on wheat in Turkey, 350.
 — *sphaerica*, conservation of cultures of, 329.
 — — on cotton in Turkey, 350.
 — — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
 Nirozan, use of, with Bordeaux mixture, 272.
 Nitro-ethylene, fungistatic properties of, 440.
 Nitrogen deficiency in apple in France, 424; Switzerland, 530; pear in Switzerland, 530; pine, 224; *Vanilla* in Puerto Rico, 256.
 — trichloride gas, use of, against *Diplodia natalensis* on cantaloupe, 313.
 —, see also Fertilizers.
 Nitrokleenup, use of, against *Fusicoccum amygdali*, *Sclerotinia fruticulosa*, *Valsa cincta*, and *V. leucostoma* on peach, 569.
 Nomenclature for micro-organisms, rules of, 438.
 Nomersan, use of, against *Macrophomina phaseoli* on jute, 72; *Penicillium* on hyacinth, iris, and tulip, 282.
 — R.D. 7846, use of, as a seed treatment for flax, 20.
 Nosprasil, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 428.
 Novemol, use of, as an adhesive, 407.
 Noxtane, use of, against timber sap stain, 167.
 Nuodex 100, use of, against *Aspergillus niger* and *Chaetomium globosum* on textiles, 330.
 Oak (*Quercus*), *Actinopelte dryina* on, in Rumania, 500.
 —, *Bulgaria inquinans* on, in U.S.A., 502.
 —, *Chalara quercina* on, in U.S.A., 165.
 —, *Cronartium fusiforme* can infect, 267.
 [Oak], *Epidochium ilicinum* on, in Italy, study on, 504.
 —, *Microsphaera alphitoides* on, in Wales, 395.
 —, *Oidium* on, in Italy, varietal reaction to, 544.
 —, *Polyporus obtusus* on, in N. America, 266.
 —, *Strumella coryneoides* and *Taphrina caerulescens* on, in U.S.A., 502.
 Oats (*Avena*), *Actinomyces* on, in U.S.A., 294.
 —, *Ascochyta graminicola* on, in Turkey, 349.
 —, *Calonectria graminicola* on, in U.S.A., 359.
 —, *Claviceps purpurea* can infect, 314.
 —, *Colletotrichum graminicola* can infect, 526.
 —, copper deficiency in, in U.S.A., 69.
 —, *Corticium solani* on, 187.
 —, effect of chaff on germination of, 277.
 —, *Erysiphe graminis* on, in U.S.A., 560.
 —, *Fusarium culmorum* on, in U.S.A., 180.
 —, *Helminthosporium victoriae* on, in Canada, 16, 1554; U.S.A., 64, 313, 360, 468, 510; breeding against, 16; control, 17, 313, 468, 510; production of toxins by, 16; technique for inoculating, 181; varietal reaction to, 16, 64, 175, 181, 182, 313, 360, 468, 510, 554.
 —, *Leptosphaeria* on, in England, 462.
 —, — *avenae* on, in Belgium, 463.
 —, lodging of, varietal reaction to, 15.
 —, maize streak virus on, resistance to, 351.
 —, manganese deficiency in, in Canada, 359; control, 583; microflora of rhizosphere in relation to, 359.
 —, — excess in, resistance to, 337.
 —, molybdenum deficiency in, in Tasmania, 173.
 —, *Ophiobolus graminis* on, 559.
 —, physiological disorder of, in Queensland, 221.
 —, *Puccinia coronata* on, in Argentina, 67; Madagascar, 80; U.S.A., 64, 360, 468, 567; breeding against, 15; effect of, on yield, 468; varietal reaction to, 15, 182, 360, 468, 567.
 —, — *graminis* on, in Argentina, 67; Canada, 553; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 64, 468, 567; breeding against, 15; varietal reaction to, 15, 126, 182, 468, 567.
 — 'pupation' disease in U.S.S.R., 17.
 —, *Pyrenophora avenae* on, in Great Britain, 127; Madagascar, 81; Turkey, 350; U.S.A., 180, 510; breeding against, 15; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 15.
 —, red spot mosaic of, in U.S.A., 360.
 —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in Madagascar, 80.
 —, *Septoria avenae* on, in Argentina, 257.
 —, *Ustilago avenae* on, 468; in France, 517; Madagascar, 80; Tanganyika Territory, 158; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 180, 468; breeding against, 15; control, 468, 517; losses caused by, 115; physiologic races of, 181; varietal reaction to, 15, 126, 181, 182.
 —, — *kollerii* on, 468; in Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 468; breeding against, 15; control, 468; varietal reaction to, 15, 126, 181, 182.
Oidiopsis taurica on tomato in Cyprus, 556.
Oidium on *Antirrhinum majus* in England, 78.
 — on oak in Italy, specific reaction to, 544.
 — *begoniae* on *Begonia*, control, 422.
 — *caricae* on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
 — *ceratoniae* on carob tree, control, 25.
 — *chrysanthemi* on *Chrysanthemum indicum*, control, 422.
 — *euonymi-japonicae* on *Euonymus japonicus*, control, 422.
 — *heveae* on *Hevea* rubber in Ceylon, 382, 445, 541, 582; Malaya, 582; Tanganyika Territory, 158; control, 449, 582; factors affecting, 582; varietal reaction to, 541, 583.
 — *manihotis* on cassava in Brazil, 122.

- [*Oidium*] *piperis* on *Piper betle* in India, 43.
Oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), *Fusarium oxysporum* on, in the Belgian Congo, 463, 523; Nigeria, 523.
—, *Marasmius palmivorus* and *Pachybasium erectum* on, in the Belgian Congo, 463.
Oiled paper, use of, in control of apple scald, 137.
Olana, use of, against *Erysiphe polyphaga* on *Begonia*, 422.
Olea europaea, see Olive.
Olearia hastii, *Armillaria mellea* on, in England, 462.
Oleyl-amido-ethane sulphonic acid, phenyl mercuric salt of, use of, against moulds on felts, 147.
Olive (*Olea europaea*), (?) *Coniothyrium oleae* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
—, *Macrophoma dalmatica* on, in Turkey, 349.
—, *Pseudomonas savastanoi* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
—, *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in Italy, 317; (?) Sicily, 286.
Omphalia flavida on coffee in Colombia, 132; summary of information on, 132.
— *maura*, toxicity of, to bacteria and fungi, 211.
— *pigmentata* and *O. tralucida* on date palm in U.S.A., 465.
Onion (*Allium cepa*), *Aspergillus niger* on, 250.
—, aster yellows virus on, in U.S.A., 212.
—, *Botrytis allii* on, in Brazil, 122; England, 462; Tanganyika Territory, 158.
—, — *byssodea* on, in England, 462.
—, damping-off of, control, 53.
—, *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
—, diseases in U.S.A., 212.
—, *Penicillium* on, in England, 462.
—, *Peronospora destructor* on, in Brazil, 122; Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 176.
—, *Sclerotium cepivorum* on, in U.S.A., 549; culture of, 134.
—, *Urocystis cepulae* on, in Canada, 354, 555; control, 404.
—, yellow dwarf virus on onion in Canada, 555.
— — — on shallot in Scotland, 57; transmission of, by aphids, 58.
Onobrychis sativa, *Colletotrichum trifolii* can infect, 125.
—, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, 283.
—, *Septoria orobina* on, in England, 462.
—, *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, resistance to, 125.
Ononis natrix, *Stemphylium sarciniforme* on, in Turkey, 351.
Onyx DL-1, use of, against *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* on bean, 435.
Oospora citri-aurantii on citrus, geographical distribution of, 96.
— on lemon in U.S.A., 250.
— *lactis* in butter and sour milk, 250.
Oothecium on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
Operculella padwickii on *Cicer arietinum* in India, 315.
Ophiobolus graminis, effects of certain soil fungi on, 228.
— in soil, 467.
— on *Agrostis* in Australia, 559.
— on barley, 559; in England, 418; U.S.A., 179; control, 180; factors affecting, 418.
— on *Bromus sterilis* in Australia, 559.
— on cereals, 559; in Morocco, 557; Sweden, 467; Switzerland, 220.
— on *Hordeum leporinum* in Australia, 559.
— on oats, 559.
Ophiobolus graminis on *Phalaris canariensis* in Australia, 559.
— on rye, 559.
— on *Vulpia bromoides* and *V. myuros* in Australia, 559.
— on wheat, 123, 559; in Australia, 14, 180; Canberra, 221; England, 278; U.S.A., 179; factors affecting, 14, 180, 221; pathogenicity of, 316; study on, 14.
— *myabeanus* on rice in Assam, 411; India, 294, 314, 379; Italy, 335; Malaya, 463; control, 295, 411, 484; factors affecting, 294, 335; study on, 196; varietal reaction to, 294.
— *oryzinus* on rice in U.S.A., 335.
Ophioglossum vulgatum, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
Opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), *Alternaria* and *Cladosporium* on, in Germany, 124.
—, *Entyloma fuscum* on, in Turkey, 115.
—, *Fusarium* on, in Germany, 124.
—, *Pleospora calvescens* on, in Germany, 124; Switzerland, 155; reactions of host plant to, 155.
(?) *Opuntia megacantha*, *Fusarium* on, varietal reaction to, 495.
Orange (*Citrus aurantium*, *C. sinensis*, etc.), *Alternaria citri* on, in U.S.A., 233.
—, *Ascochyta* on, in Argentina, 257.
—, *citricola* on, in the Cameroons and South Australia, 564.
— bark shelling in U.S.A., 520.
— blind pocket psorosis in U.S.A., 361.
— 'bud union decline' in Victoria, 320, 419; transmission of, by budding, 320.
—, calcium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
— chlorosis in Java, 131.
—, *Colletotrichum* on, in Argentina, 257.
—, — *gloeosporioides* on, in U.S.A., 233.
— concave gum psorosis in U.S.A., 361.
—, *Corticium salmonicolor* on, in Ceylon, 556.
—, — *solani* on, in Argentina, 257.
—, *Deuterophoma tracheiphila* on, 317; varietal reaction to, 318.
— die-back in U.S.A., 561.
—, *Elsinoe australis* on, in Eritrea, (?) introduced from S. America, 521.
—, *Exosporina fawcetti* on, in U.S.A., 103.
— foliocollosis in Italy, 234; hereditary character of, 234.
—, frost injury to, *Exosporina fawcetti* in relation to, 103.
—, *Gloeodes pomigena* on, in S. Africa and Southern Rhodesia, 522.
— granulation in Australia, Brazil, British W. Indies, China, Egypt, Honduras, India, Mexico, Palestine, Siam, S. Africa, U.S.A., and U.S.S.R., 521.
—, *Guignardia citricarpa* on, in New S. Wales, 562.
— gummosis, varietal reaction to, 129.
—, magnesium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 520.
—, *Penicillium digitatum* on, in S. Africa, 522; U.S.A., 233, 471.
—, — *italicum* on, in U.S.A., 233.
—, *Phoma citricarpa* on, in S. Africa, 564.
—, *Phytophthora boehmeriae*, *P. cactorum*, *P. cinnamomi*, *P. citrophthora*, and *P. palmivora* on, 129.
—, — *parasitica* on, 129; in Java, 131.
—, potassium excess in, in U.S.A., 520.
— psorosis A and B in U.S.A., 361.
— virus in Peru, 320.
— quick decline virus in U.S.A., 233, 519; control, 233; in relation to incompatibility

- reactions, 419; to 'tristeza', 130, 131, 132; legislation against, in U.S.A., 96; transmission of, by symptomless hosts, 519.
- [Orange] rind spot in U.S.A., 233.
- , *Sphaeropsis tumefaciens* on, in the Cameroons, 564; geographical distribution of, 564.
- , *Stomiopeltis citri* on, in S. Africa, 522.
- storage rots, control, 115.
- 'tristeza' in Argentina, 131, 521; Brazil, 129, 130, 131, 132, 564; S. Africa, 131; Uruguay, 130; comparison of, with 'quick decline', 130, 131, 132; control, 129; etiology of, 130; transmission of, by *Aphis tavaresi*, 130, 564; varietal reaction to, 129, 521.
- virus disease in S. Africa, 418; incompatibility reactions in relation to, 418.
- Orchard spray service in U.S.A., 65.
- Organol, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 376.
- Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*, *Puccinia hordei* and *P. liliacearum* on, in England, 560.
- Orthoxyquinoline sulphate, use of, against *Venturia pirina*, 531.
- Oryza sativa*, see Rice.
- Osmunda regalis*, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
- Ovularia carthami* on safflower in France, 384.
- *lolii* on *Lolium multiflorum* in Argentina, 257.
- Ovulariopsis papayae* on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
- Oxalis stricta*, *Puccinia maydis* on, in Switzerland, 220; eradication against, 220.
- Oxicop, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 588.
- Pachybasium erectum* on oil palm in the Belgian Congo, 463.
- Paecilomyces varioti*, effect of trichothecin on, 437.
- on jute textiles in India, 378.
- , toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- Paeonia*, see Peony.
- Paint, *Aspergillus niger* and *A. oryzae* on, technique for determining resistance to, 251.
- , fungi on, 440; control, 379.
- Palmyra palm (*Borassus flabellifer*), *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- Panicum maximum*, *Cerebella andropogonis* on, in Brazil, 100.
- *milaceum*, *Colletotrichum graminicola* can infect, 526.
- , *Corticium solani* on, 187.
- , *Piricularia grisea* on, in Queensland, 221.
- , *Sphacelotheca destruens* on, in England, 462; Turkey, 115.
- Panikol, use of, against *Erysiphe polyphaga* on *Begonia*, 422.
- Panogen, use of, against damping-off of beet, 456; as a seed treatment for flax and hemp, 421.
- Pansy (*Viola tricolor*), beet mosaic virus on, 270.
- , celery calico virus on, in U.S.A., 323; transmission of, by aphids, 323.
- , *Myrothecium roridum* on, in Canada, 555.
- , western cucumber mosaic virus on, in U.S.A., 323; transmission of, by aphids, 323.
- Panus stipiticus* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- Papaver, *Helminthosporium* on, control, 123.
- *commutatum*, *Entyloma fuscum* on, in Turkey, 115.
- *somniferum*, see Opium poppy.
- Papaw (*Carica papaya*), *Armillaria mellea* and *Ascochyta caricae* on, in E. Africa, 483.
- , *Asperisporium caricae* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* on, in E. Africa, 483.
- [Papaw], disease of, in Tanganyika Territory, 483.
- , mosaic of, *Oidium caricae*, *Ovulariopsis papayae*, *Phytophthora*, and *P. parasitica* on, in E. Africa, 483.
- , *Pythiaceae* on, in S. Africa, 352.
- , *Pythium* on, in E. Africa, 483; factors affecting, 576.
- , — *aphanidermatum* on, in E. Africa, 483.
- , — *indicum* can infect, 573.
- ring spot virus in Hawaii, 431; transmission of, by *Myzus persicae*, 431.
- Paper, fungi on asphalt-treated, 253.
- , *Pleospora herbarum* on, cultural study on, 387.
- Para-aminobenzoic acid, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
- Paradichlorobenzene, use of, against *Peronospora antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum*, 72.
- Paragerm, use of, against *Ceratostomella fimbriata* on *Hevea* rubber, 336.
- Paranitrophenol, use of, against mildews on leather, 251, 535; peach X-disease virus, 532; for preserving cork gaskets, 436.
- Para-phenyl phenol formaldehyde resin, use of, for sealing liquid mounting media, 82.
- Para-tobacco mosaic virus on *Nicotiana glutinosa* and tobacco, course of infection in, 262.
- Paratylenchus pratensis* on clover, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Lespedeza*, lucerne, maize, *Phleum pratense*, *Poa pratensis*, and soy-bean in U.S.A., 264.
- on tobacco in relation to brown root rot in U.S.A., 264.
- Parodiella paraguayensis* on *Crotalaria* in the Cameroons, 197.
- *f. macrospora* on *Sphenostylis schweinfurthii* in the Cameroons, 197.
- *perisporioides* on *Crotalaria naragutensis* in the Cameroons, 197.
- on *Crotalaria retusa* in Madagascar, 197.
- Parsley (*Petroselinum sativum*), *Fusicladium depressum* var. *petroselinii* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Macrosporium ramulosum* on, in Spain, 387.
- , *Septoria petroselinii* on, in Turkey, 349.
- Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 527.
- Parzate, use of, against *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 8; *Puccinia antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum majus*, 239; *Stemphylium* on *Gladiolus*, 566.
- Paspalum*, *Claviceps paspali* on, in New S. Wales, 24.
- , *Fusarium gramineum* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *distichum*, *Claviceps paspali* on, in Turkey, 423; toxicity of, to cattle, 423.
- *plicatulum*, *Cerebella andropogonis* on, in Brazil, 100.
- Passalora bacilligera* on alder in Canada, 555.
- Passiflora edulis*, see Passion fruit.
- Passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*), *Alternaria passiflorae* on, in New Zealand, 116.
- , cucumber mosaic virus on, in New S. Wales, 533; transmission of, by *Aphis gossypii*, 533; (?) by seed, 533.
- , *Phytomonas passiflorae* on, in New Zealand, 116.
- Pastinaca sativa*, see Parsnip.
- Patulin, production of, by *Penicillium expansum*, 83, 488; *P. patulum*, 83, 330, 488; toxicity of, to fungi, 83; plant plasma, 488; tomato, 453.
- Paxillus panuoides* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.

- PCC, use of, as a spreader, 525.
- Pea (*Pisum sativum*), *Aphanomyces euteiches* on, in U.S.A., 509.
- , *Ascochyta pinodella* on, in Turkey, 349; U.S.A., 169, 270; Victoria, 591; control, 4, 169, 591; varietal reaction to, 169, 270.
- , — *pisi* on, in Turkey, 349; Victoria, 591.
- , bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , boron deficiency in, in Canada, 506.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 169, 346; control, 4, 169, 346; transmission of, by seed, 346; varietal reaction to, 169.
- , damping-off of, control, 53.
- , *Erysiphe pisi* on, in Switzerland, 158.
- , *Fusarium* on, control, 155.
- , — *avenaceum* var. *fabae* can infect, 551.
- , — *solani* f. *pisi* on, control, 5.
- , — — var. *martii* f. 2 on, in U.S.A., 169.
- , 'hollow heart' in Australia, New S. Wales, New Zealand, and U.S.A., 54.
- , *Hyalodendron album* can infect, 237.
- , manganese deficiency in, in Finland, 337; control, 584.
- , *Mycosphaerella pinodes* on, in U.S.A., 270; Victoria, 591.
- , *Pseudomonas pisi* on, control, 591.
- , *Pythium* on, control, 4.
- , — *ultimum* on, in U.S.A., 169, 344.
- , *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* can infect, 283.
- , seed certification in Victoria, 591.
- , — treatments, 213, 403.
- , *Septoria pisi* on, control, 591.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, resistance to, 125.
- , *Uromyces pisi* on, in Switzerland, 158.
- Peach (*Prunus persica*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in Holland, 244; Hungary, 140.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, in Rumania, 274.
- , chlorosis, control, 430.
- , *Cladosporium carpophilum* on, in Holland, 244; Turkey, 350; U.S.A., 75.
- , *Cytospora* on, in Holland, 244.
- , *Fusicoccum amygdali* on, in U.S.A., 569.
- , mosaic virus in U.S.A., 63, 465.
- , — on apricot, damson, plum, *Prunus cerasifera*, and *P. triloba* in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, 27; transmission of, by *Anuraphis padi*, budding, and grafting, 27.
- , *Pholiota squarrosa* and *Phomopsis* on, in Holland, 244.
- , phony mosaic virus in U.S.A., 63.
- , *Phyalospora obtusa* on, in Brazil, 122.
- , *Pseudomonas mors-prunorum* and *P. prunicola* on, in Holland, 244.
- , *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in Spain, 386; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 139.
- , rusty spot in U.S.A., 355.
- , *Schizophyllum commune* on, in France, 241.
- , *Sclerotinia fructicola* on, in Peru, 327; U.S.A., 139, 173, 510, 532, 569, 573; control, 139, 173, 327, 510, 532, 573; losses caused by, 139; varietal reaction to, 139.
- , — *laxa* on, in France, 430.
- , *Sclerotium rolsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *Stereum purpureum* on, in Holland, 245; Hungary, 140.
- , 'suffocation' in Holland, 244.
- , *Taphrina deformans* on, in U.S.A., 510.
- , *Valsa cincta* and *V. leucostoma* on, in U.S.A., 569.
- , *Verticillium dahliae* on, in Holland, 244.
- , wart virus in U.S.A., 355.
- , X-disease virus on peach and *Prunus virginiana*, in U.S.A., 531; control, 532; in-
- activation of, 532; transmission of, by budding and grafting, 531.
- [Peach] yellows virus deleted from list of Oklahoma plant diseases, 248.
- Pear (*Pyrus communis*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in U.S.A., 372.
- , *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, control, 276.
- , boron deficiency in, in Switzerland, 530.
- , *Coryneum foliicolum* on, in France, 242.
- , 'decline' in Italy, 530.
- , *Erwinia amylovora* on, in U.S.A., 326; varietal reaction to, 429.
- , *Fabraea maculata* and *Gloeodes pomigena* on, in U.S.A., 174, 429.
- , *Gymnosporangium clavariiforme* on, 371.
- , — *globosum* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , — *sabinae* on, in Rumania, 387; Turkey, 115.
- , magnesium deficiency in, in Holland, 427.
- , *Mycosphaerella sentina* on, in France, 425; U.S.A., 429.
- , *Myxosporium corticola* on, in France, 241.
- , *Nectria galligena* on, in France, 425.
- , *Neofabraea malicorticis* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , nitrogen deficiency in, in Switzerland, 530.
- , phosphorus deficiency in, in Switzerland, 530.
- , *Phyalospora obtusa* on, in Tasmania, 530.
- , *Podosphaera leucotricha* on, in France, 425.
- , potassium deficiency in, in Switzerland, 530.
- , *Schizophyllum commune* on, in France, 241.
- , stony pit in Canada, 555.
- , *Venturia pirina* on, in France, 529; 531; Holland, 426; New Zealand, 117; Switzerland, 428; U.S.A., 429, 481, 573; control, 117, 426, 428, 429, 481, 531, 573; factors affecting, 429; varietal reaction to, 117.
- , zinc deficiency in, in Holland, 337, 424; U.S.A., 511.
- Pecan (*Carya pecan*), *Cladosporium effusum* on, in U.S.A., 342.
- Pectinase, production of, by *Sclerotium cepivorum* and *S. tuliparum*, 135.
- Pectobacterium, taxonomy of, 514.
- , *delphinii* on *Delphinium ajacis*, taxonomy of, 514.
- Pelargonium, *Aplanobacter magroui* on, in France, study on, 135.
- , *capitatum*, *Glomerella vanillae* var. *pelargonii* on, in Madagascar, 80.
- Penicillic acid, production of, by *Penicillium cyclopium* and *P. puberulum*, 488; toxicity of, to plant plasma, 488.
- Penicillin, assay of, 290.
- , assay plates, electrostatic field on, 377.
- , effect of, on soil organisms, 41.
- , production of, by *Aspergillus nidulans*, 253; *A. quadrilineatus* and *A. rugulosus*, 253; *Penicillium chrysogenum* and *P. notatum*, 488.
- , study on, 33.
- , toxicity of, to plant plasma, 488.
- , use of, against *Bacterium tumefaciens* on various plants, 276.
- Penicillium, antibiotics from, 83.
- , in soil, 467; in U.S.A., 511.
- , on cork gaskets, control, 436.
- , on date palm in U.S.A., 431.
- , on felt in U.S.A., 147.
- , on flax and hemp fibres, 379.
- , on food, 250.
- , on groundnut in U.S.A., 171; factors affecting, 8.
- , on hyacinth in Canada, 281.
- , on *Iris* in Canada, 282.

- [*Penicillium*] on leather, 485; in U.S.A., 251.
 — on lime in the Gold Coast, 509.
 — on maize in U.S.A., 417.
 — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
 — on onion in England, 462.
 — on optical glass, control, 145.
 — on pine in U.S.A., 546.
 — on potato, antagonism of, to *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 293; control, 152.
 — on rice in Formosa, 446.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
 — on timber, control, 546.
 — on tulip in Canada, 282; U.S.A., 323.
 — on vegetable fibre gaskets, control, 436.
 — on wheat in U.S.A., 417.
 — on wheat, stored, factors affecting, 146.
 —, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106;
 of propylene glycol aerosol to, 249.
 — *chrysogenum*, effect of relative humidity on
 spore germination in, 18; of resistance glass
 on growth and antibiotic activity of, 191.
 — — on cotton textiles, 486.
 — — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
 — —, production of penicillin by, 488.
 — *citrinum* on cotton textiles, 486.
 — *cyclopium*, production of penicillic acid by,
 488.
 — *digitatum*, effect of glutinosin on, 146; of
 trichothecin on, 437.
 — — on citrus in Morocco, 320.
 — — on orange in S. Africa, 522, 523; U.S.A.,
 233, 471.
 — —, use of, as a test organism in assaying
 fungicides, 440.
 — *expansum*, effect of DDT on, 143.
 — — on apple, 368, 369.
 — —, production of enzymes by, 369.
 — —, production of patulin by, 83, 488.
 — *fasciculatum* on paper, control, 254.
 — *fusco-glaucum*, use of, as a test organism in
 proofing textiles, 148.
 — *glaucum*, effect of, on various media, 552.
 — *italicum*, effect of DDT on, 143.
 — — on citrus in Morocco, 320.
 — — on orange in U.S.A., 233.
 — *lilacinum* antagonism of, to *Ophiobolus*
graminis, 228.
 — *luteum* on cotton textiles, 486.
 — — on jute textiles in India, 378.
 — —, use of, as a test organism, in proofing
 textiles, 439.
 — *notatum*, control, 484.
 — — on cotton textiles, 486.
 — —, production of penicillin by, 488; of spores
 by, 489.
 — —, use of, as a test organism for fungicides,
 287, 367.
 — *palitans*, effect of relative humidity on spore
 germination in, 18.
 — — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
 — *patulum*, production of clavatin by, 113; of
 patulin by, 83, 330, 488.
 — —, toxicity of, to *Erwinia aroideae*, *E.*
carotovora, *E. phytophthora*, *Phytophthora*
cryptogea, *P. megasperma*, and *P. parasitica*,
 113.
 — *puberulum*, production of penicillic acid by,
 488.
 — *purpureogenum* on cotton textiles, 486.
 — *roqueforti*, effect of DDT on, 143.
 — —, use of, as a test organism for fungicides,
 142, 143.
 — *rugulosum*, effect of relative humidity on
 spore germination in, 18.
- [*Penicillium rugulosum*] on cotton textiles, 486.
 — — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
 — *spinulosum* on cotton textiles, 486.
Peniophora aurantiaca on alder in U.S.A., 207.
 — *gigantea* on timber in U.S.S.R., 301.
 Penite 6, use of, for killing potato haulms, 581.
Pennisetum purpureum, *Gloeocercospora sorghi*
 and *Phyllachora penniseti* on, in Tanganyika
 Territory, 158.
 — *spicatum*, immunity of, from maize streak
 virus, 351.
 — *typhoides*, *Acrothecium penniseti* on, in Ceylon,
 555.
 — —, *Gloeocercospora sorghi* on, in Tanganyika
 Territory, 158.
 Pentachlorophenol, effect of, on prepared and
 synthetic rubber, 41.
 —, use of, against *Coniophora puteana*, 343;
 fungi on asphalt-treated paper, 253; *Lenzites*
sepiaria, 343; moulds on leather, 251; *Poly-*
stictus versicolor, 343; as a timber preservative,
 268, 547; in rot-proofing textiles, 84.
Pentalonia caladii transmitting abaca bunchy
 top virus, 421.
 — *nigronervosa* transmitting abaca bunchy top
 virus, 236.
 Peony (*Paonia*), *Botrytis paeoniae* on, in Canada,
 555; Czechoslovakia, 423; transmission of,
 by ants, 423.
 —, *Cronartium flaccidum* on, in Spain, 386.
 —, *Phytophthora cactorum* on, in Canada, 555.
 Pepper, (*Piper nigrum*) seed treatment, 399.
 Peppermint (*Mentha piperita*), *Puccinia menthae*
 on, breeding against, 120.
 —, *Sphaceloma menthae* on, breeding against, 120.
 Perenox injury to cabbage, 223.
 —, use of, against *Exobasidium vexans* on tea,
 298, 388; *Mycosphaerella musicola* on banana,
 572; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 194.
Peridermium acicolum a state of *Coleosporium*
solidaginis, 45.
 — *cornui* on pine in Spain, 387.
Perkinsiella saccharicida and *P. vitiensis* trans-
 mitting Fiji disease of sugar-cane, 97.
 Permatox 105, use of, against timber sap stains,
 167.
Peronospora antirrhini on *Antirrhinum* in Scot-
 land, 475; U.S.A., 72.
 — *destructor* on onion in Brazil, 122; Tanganyika
 Territory, 158; U.S.A., 176.
 — — on shallot in U.S.A., 176.
 — *galligena* on *Alyssum saxatile* in England, 462.
 — *gei* on *Geum* in Canada, 555; England, 462.
 — *manshurica* on bean in U.S.A., 404.
 — — on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
 — *parasitica* on cabbage in Trinidad, 223.
 U.S.A., 167, 269.
 — *schachtii* in Denmark, 410.
 — — on beet, varietal reaction to, 224.
 — *tabacina* on chilli in U.S.A., 587.
 — — on *Nicotiana repanda* in Mexico, 163.
 U.S.A., 391.
 — — on *Nicotiana rustica* in Australia, 587.
 — — on tobacco in Australia, 587; Mexico, 163.
 U.S.A., 48, 163, 175, 437, 587; control, 175;
 275; factors affecting, 163; forecasting servi-
 against, 437; varietal reaction to, 48.
 — *trifoliorum* on lucerne in U.S.A., 283.
Persea americana, see Avocado pear.
 Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* and *D. virginiana*)
Armillaria mellea on, in U.S.A., 372.
 —, *Cephalosporium diospyri* on, in U.S.A., 500.
 — chlorosis in Java, 132.
 —, new disease of, in Italy, 327.

- [Persimmon], *Phomopsis diospyri* on, in Italy, study on, 481.
- Pestalotia* on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- on vine in U.S.A., 410.
- *funerea* on *Cupressus macrocarpa* in Kenya, 455.
- *guepini* var. *vaccinii* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
- *ilicis* and *P. sydowiana*, description of, 451.
- *theae* on tea in Malaya, 464.
- Petroselinum sativum*, see Parsley.
- Petunia*, *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- *hybrida*, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , *Phytophthora infestans* can infect, 36.
- , tomato virus disease can infect, 203.
- Peucedanum graveolens*, *Cercospora anethi* on, in Rumania, 399.
- , *Phoma anethi* on, in Rumania, 400.
- seed treatments, 399.
- Peyronellaceae, taxonomy of, 339.
- Phacidium infestans*, physiology of, 501.
- Phaeocryptopus gaeumanni* on *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* in England, 591; Holland, 166.
- Phaeosaccardinula javanicum* on tea, 260.
- Phakopsora vitis* on vine in Costa Rica, 460.
- Phalaris canariensis*, *Colletotrichum graminicola* can infect, 526.
- , *Ophiobolus graminis* on, in Australia, 559.
- Phaseolus aureus*, *Phaseolus lunatus* mosaic virus can infect, 550.
- *coccineus*, bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *Erysiphe polygoni* on, water loss from, 149.
- *helvulus*, *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- *limensis*, *Phaseolus lunatus* mosaic virus can infect, 550.
- *lunatus*, bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *Cercospora canescens* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Colletotrichum truncatum* on, in U.S.A., 306.
- , damping-off of, control, 53.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 55.
- , — var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- mosaic virus in India, 550; transmission of, by *Bemisia gossypiperda*, 550; to bean, *Canavalia ensiformis*, *Dolichos biflorus*, *Phaseolus aureus*, and *P. limensis*, 550.
- , *Phytophthora phaseoli* on, in U.S.A., 175, 214.
- , *Synchytrium dolichi* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Trichoderma* on, in U.S.A., 126.
- *vulgaris*, see Bean, French and Runner.
- Phenax sonneratii*, *Abutilon* variegation virus on, in Brazil, 553.
- Phenococcus gossypii*, *Aspergillus* (?) *parasiticus* on, 132.
- Phenyl mercuric acetate, use of, as a seed treatment for spinach, 54.
- borate, use of, against moulds on leather, 251.
- chloride, use of, against *Sclerotinia fructigena* on plum, 371; as a seed treatment for spinach, 54.
- compounds, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 481.
- [Phenyl mercuric] nitrate, use of, against moulds on leather, 252.
- oleate, use of, against moulds on felt, 147; as a timber preservative, 268, 547.
- stearate, use of, against moulds on leather, 252.
- Phialea temulenta* on *Lolium* in New Zealand, 116.
- on *Lolium perenne* in New Zealand, 284; U.S.A., 478.
- Phialophora*, antagonism of, to *Fusarium culmorum*, 241.
- *lignicola*, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- Phleum pratense*, *Ascochyta phleina* on, in U.S.A., 528.
- , Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 325.
- , *Helminthosporium victoriae* on, varietal reaction to, 16.
- , *Heterosporium phlei* on, in U.S.A., 528.
- , *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
- , *Urocystis agropyri* on, in U.S.A., 367.
- , *Ustilago striiformis* on, in U.S.A., 136, 367; culture of, 136.
- , *Xanthomonas translucens* var. *phlei-pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 528.
- Phlox*, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 527.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in Argentina, 204.
- *divaricata*, *Colletotrichum phlogina* on, in U.S.A., 498.
- *drummondii*, tobacco mosaic virus on, 161.
- Phoenix dactylifera*, see Date palm.
- Pholiota erebia*, antagonism of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
- *squarrosa* on peach and plum in Holland, 244.
- Phoma* can infect tomato, 462.
- on aster in U.S.A., 511.
- on beet in U.S.A., pathogenicity of, 402.
- on coffee in Kenya, 280.
- on cotton textiles, 487.
- on eggplant in England, 462.
- on flax in Eire, 236; England, 462; Northern Ireland, 523.
- on spruce in Holland, 166.
- on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
- *anethi* on *Peucedanum graveolens* in Rumania, 400.
- *apicola* on celery in Great Britain, 127; U.S.A., 108.
- *betae*, effect of glutinosin on, 146.
- on beet, 550; in U.S.A., 3, 4, 344; control, 3; factors affecting, 3, 344; pathogenicity of, 403.
- *citricarpa* on citrus, 469; in Japan, 132; S. Africa, 351, 563; spread of, 351.
- on grapefruit in S. Africa, 564.
- on holly in New S. Wales, 275.
- on lemon and orange in S. Africa, 564.
- *lingam*, host range of, 306.
- on broccoli and Brussels sprouts, control, 306, 343.
- on cabbage in Spain, 114; U.S.A., 305; control, 343.
- on cauliflower, 306; control, 343.
- on Chinese cabbage in U.S.A., 305.
- on swede in U.S.A., 305.
- on turnip in U.S.A., 305; control, 343.
- *linicola* on flax in Belgium, 463.
- *pomi* on apple in U.S.A., 573.
- *richardiae* renamed *Coniothecium richardiae*, 238.
- Phomaceae, taxonomy of, 338.
- Phomopsis* on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
- on citrus in U.S.A., 561.

- [*Phomopsis*] on coffee in Kenya, 280.
 — on *Nephelium lappaceum* in Malaya, 464.
 — on peach and plum in Holland, 244.
 — on tea, 260.
 — on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
 — *cinerescens* on fig in England, 462.
 — *diopryi* on persimmon in Italy, study on, 481.
 — *juniperovora* on *Cupressus* in U.S.A., 545.
 — *pseudotsugae* on *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, 546.
 — *vezans* on eggplant, breeding against, 126.
Phormium tenax, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. *phormii* on, in S. Africa, 185.
 Phosphoric acid, effect of, on cereals and grasses, 518.
 Phosphorus deficiency in apple in Switzerland, 530; barley, in Denmark, 410; lemon in U.S.A., 520; pear in Switzerland, 530; *Vanilla*, in Puerto Rico, 256.
 Photo-electric apparatus for counting microscopic cells, 190.
Phragmidium mucronatum on rose in U.S.A., 324; control, 324, 422.
 — *speciosum* on rose in U.S.A., 324.
Phragmites communis, *Selenophoma donacis* on, synonymy of, 324.
 Phycomycetes, list of, in U.S.A., 451.
 Phygon injury to apple, 510; *Phaseolus lunatus*, 307; tomato, 165.
 —, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 331; tomato, 165; sugar-cane, 157; *Colletotrichum phomoides* on tomato, 165; *C. truncatum* on *Phaseolus lunatus*, 307; *Phoma betae* on beet, 3; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 254; tomato, 164, 165; *P. palmivora* on *Dieffenbachia picta*, 238; *Plasmodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213; *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 573; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361; *Stemphylium on Gladiolus*, 566; *Uromyces fabae* on broad bean, 116; *Venturia inaequalis*, 509, 510, 573; as a seed treatment for beet, 2; cereals, 574; flax, 134, 421; hemp, 421; maize, 356; rice, 381; sugar beet and vegetables, 574.
 — 604, use of, against *Alternaria solani*, *Colletotrichum phomoides*, and *Phytophthora infestans* on tomato, 174.
Phyllachora balansiae on *Cedrela* in Peru, 542.
 — *eleusineae* on *Eleusine coracana* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 — *maculans* on bamboo in China, 258.
 — *penniseti* on *Pennisetum purpureum* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 (?) *Phyllactinia corylea* on *Mentha*, specific reaction to, 356.
 — *suffulta* on lilac in Switzerland, 158.
Phyllitis scolopendrium and var. *crispum*, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
Phyllostachys, see Bamboo.
Phyllosticta on ornamental plants, control, 422.
 — (?) *camelliae* on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
 — *camelliaeicola* var. *meranensis* on *Camellia* in England, 78.
 — *glycineum* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 459.
 — *grevilleae* on *Grevillia robusta* in Ceylon, 197.
 — *ilicis* considered to be a synonym of *P. macrotricha*, 451.
 — *macrotricha*, *P. ilicis* and *P. sydwiana* considered synonyms of, 451.
 — *napi* on crucifers in Belgium, 463.
 — *phaseolina* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
 — *richardiae* synonym of *Coniothecium richardiae*, 238.
[Phyllosticta] solitaria on apple in U.S.A., 529, 573.
 — *sydwiana* considered to be a synonym of *P. macrotricha*, 451.
Phyllostictina vaccinii on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 29.
Phymatotrichum omnivorum, carbohydrate metabolism in, 321.
 — on bean, carrot, and cotton in U.S.A., 185.
 — on *Cupressus glabra* in U.S.A., 545.
 — on sweet potato and turnip in U.S.A., 185.
Physalis angulata, *Phytophthora infestans* can infect, 36.
 — and *P. floridana*, potato leaf roll virus can infect, 493.
 — *peruviana*, tobacco mosaic virus can infect, 587.
Physalospora corticis on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
 — *mutila* on apple, production of toxins by, 369.
 — *obtusata* on apple in Brazil, 122; France, 425; Tasmania, 530; *Sphaeropsis malorum*, imperfect state of, 425.
 — on peach in Brazil, 122.
 — on pear in Tasmania, 530.
 — on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
 — *perseae* on mango in S. Africa (?) previously attributed to *Gloeosporium mangiferae*, 30.
 — *rhodina* perfect state of *Botryodiplodia theobromae*, 171.
 — *tucumanensis* on sugar-cane in Japan, 256; Mauritius, 44, 157, 386; Queensland, 385; S. Africa, 157; Tanganyika Territory, 224; U.S.A., 98, 495; control, 45, 99; strains of, 256; varietal reaction to, 98, 157, 495, 541.
Physoderma on *Agropyron repens* in U.S.A., 240.
 — on grasses in Europe, 240.
Phytolacca esculenta, production of virus-inhibiting protein by, 508.
Phylomonas synonym of *Pseudomonas*, 512.
 — *corylina* on *Corylus avellana* in the Pacific Northwest, 166.
 — *passiflorae* on passion fruit in New Zealand, 116.
 Phytopathology, see Plant diseases.
Phytophthora on *Agave wightii*, study on, 451.
 — on apricot, 123.
 — on *Artocarpus incisa*, study on, 451.
 — on beet in U.S.A., 2.
 — on citrus in New S. Wales, 70.
 — on conifers in England, 500.
 — on flax in W. Australia, 21.
 — on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
 — on *Ricinus communis*, study on, 451.
 —, oospore production in, 297.
 — *arecae* referred to *P. palmivora*, 160.
 — *boehmeriae* on orange, 129.
 — (?) *cactorum* can infect apple and tomato, 129.
 — on *Acer* in U.S.A., 502.
 — (?) — on apricot, 125.
 — on *Cornus florida* in U.S.A., 502.
 — on orange, 129.
 — on peony in Canada, 555.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 374.
 — *cambivora* on chestnut (?) in Portugal, 395; Spain, 165; control, 165; varietal reaction to, 114, 544.
 (?) — on walnut in Portugal, 395.
 — *capsici* on chili in Argentina, 204; Greece, 95.
 — *cinnamomi* on avocado pear in Peru, 255, 327; U.S.A., 31, 483; control, 483; factors affecting, 327, 576; forms of, 327.
 — on chestnut in New S. Wales, 275.
 — on *Cinchona* in Peru, 255.

- [*Phytophthora cinnamomi*] on orange, 129.
 — on pineapple in Hawaii, 142.
 —, oospore production in, 297.
 — *citrophthora* can infect chestnut, 114.
 — on citrus in Argentina, 204; the Belgian Congo, 123; legislation against, in New S. Wales, 70.
 — on orange, 129.
 —, oospore production in, 297.
 — *colocasiae* on *Colocasia antiquorum* in the Solomon Islands, 407; synonymy of, 451.
 — *cryptogea* on tomato in England, 111.
 —, toxicity of *Penicillium patulum* to, 113.
 — *faberi* referred to *P. palmivora*, 160.
 — *fragariae* on strawberry in U.S.A., 65, 430, 511, 572; breeding against, 28; control, 354; factors affecting, 511; varietal reaction to, 28, 122, 373.
 — *infestans* can infect *Petunia hybrida*, *Physalis angulata*, *Salpiglossis*, *Solanum dulcamara*, and *S. nigrum*, 36.
 —, culture of, 441.
 — on potato in Argentina, 580; Assam, 411; the Belgian Congo, 123; Canada, 194; Central Africa, 377; Denmark, 411; England, 88; Finland, 579; Java, 35; Sweden, 293, 442; Switzerland, 220, 442; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353; U.S.A., 36, 85, 86, 88, 89, 122, 151, 254, 292, 355, 437, 540, 574; breeding against, 34, 35, 88, 151, 291, 579; control, 32, 88, 89, 194, 254, 293, 411, 442, 539, 574; culture and storage of, 195; effect of, on yield, 540; factors affecting, 442; forecasting outbreaks of, 88, 237, 437; losses caused by, 411; measurement of, 89; new strain of, 224; non-recurrence of, in Southern Rhodesia, 118; overwintering of, 36, 442; physiologic races of, 580; strains of, in Scotland, 151; varietal reaction to, 34, 35, 85, 86, 88, 122, 151, 175, 220, 312, 351, 411, 539, 540, 579, 580.
 — on *Solanum* spp., resistance to, 35.
 — on tomato in Queensland, 391; U.S.A., 49, 164, 174, 292, 341, 355, 437; Venezuela, 391; control, 164, 174, 341, 391, 435; culture and storage of, 195; factors affecting, 49, 391; forecasting outbreaks of, 292, 341, 437.
 —, oospore production in, 297.
 — *meadii* on *Hevea* rubber in Ceylon, 541, 583.
 — referred to *P. palmivora*, 160.
 — *megasperma* on spinach in U.S.A., 10.
 —, toxicity of *Penicillium patulum* to, 113.
 — *palmivora* on *Agave wrightii*, areca palm, and breadfruit in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on cacao in Brazil, 226, 414; India, 159; Tanganyika Territory, 158; control, 226, 414; effect of, on yield, 226, 414; factors affecting, 414; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on citrus and *Clerodendron infortunatum* in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on coco-nut in Ceylon, 556; India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on *Colocasia antiquorum* in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on *Dieffenbachia picta* in U.S.A., 238.
 — on *Hevea* rubber in Ceylon, 382, 541, 583; India, 159; factors affecting, 541; oospore formation in, 159; varietal reaction to, 541.
 — on *Hibiscus esculentus* in India, 172.
 — on jak tree in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on *Jatropha curcas* in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — on orange, 129.
 [*Phytophthora palmivora*] on Palmyra palm, *Piper betle*, *Spondias mangifera*, tobacco, and tomato in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
 — synonym of *P. colocasiae*, 451.
 —, taxonomy of, 160.
 — *parasitica* on citrus in Argentina, 204; Morocco, 319; U.S.A., 279.
 — on orange, 129; in Java, 131.
 — on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
 — on tomato in England, 111.
 —, toxicity of *Penicillium patulum* to, 113.
 — var. *nicotianae* on tobacco in U.S.A., 390; varietal reaction to, 48, 390.
 — — referred to *P. palmivora*, 160.
 — and its var. *piperina* synonyms of *P. colocasiae*, 451.
 — *phaseoli* on *Phaseolus lunatus* in U.S.A., 175, 214.
 Picea, see Spruce.
Piesma quadratum transmitting beet crinkle disease, 456.
 Pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan* and *C. indicus*), *Diplodia cajani* on, in India, 526; culture of, 526.
 —, *Fusarium udum* on, in India, 155.
 Pine (*Pinus*), *Boletus bovinus* on, forming mycorrhiza in England, 548.
 — burn blight in U.S.A., 267.
 —, *Coleosporium solidaginis* on, in U.S.A., 45.
 —, *Cronartium fusiforme* on, in U.S.A., 267, 398; effect of temperature on spore germination in, 267.
 —, — *ribicola* on, in U.S.A., 64, 104.
 —, *Crumenula abietina* on, in Belgium, biology of, 396.
 — deterioration in fire-killed stands in Canada, 343.
 — die-back in England, 591.
 —, *Diplodia pinea* on, in Italy, 104.
 —, *Fomes annosus* on, in England, 591.
 —, frost injury to, in England, 500.
 —, *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 224, 546.
 —, — *bulbigenum* var. *blasticola*, *F. orthoceras*, and *F. oxysporum* on, in Argentina, 204.
 —, growth of, following different nursery treatments, 548.
 — little leaf in U.S.A., 51, 224; nitrogen deficiency in relation to, 224.
 —, *Naemacyclus niveus* on, in Kenya, 312.
 —, *Nectria cucurbitula* on, in U.S.A., *Aphrophora saratogensis* in relation to, 267.
 —, *Penicillium* on, in U.S.A., 546.
 —, *Peridermium cornui* on, in Spain, 387.
 — 'pole blight' in U.S.A., 210.
 —, *Polyporus amorphus* on, in U.S.A., 167.
 —, — *schweinitzii* on, in U.S.A., 546.
 —, *Scopularia halepensis* on, in Italy, 104.
 Pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on, (?) 572; in Assam, 411; Brazil, 100; Queensland, 208, 221; control, 221, 375; geographical distribution of, 96; legislation against, in Queensland, 208.
 —, *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on, in Hawaii, 142.
 Pinus, see Pine.
Piper betle, *Oidium piperis* on, in India, 43.
 —, *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, oospore formation in, 159.
 —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in India, 94.
 — *nigrum*, see Pepper.
Piricularia grisea on *Panicum miliaceum* in Queensland, 221.
 — on rice in Turkey, (?) identical with *P. oryzae*, 350.

- [*Piricularia*] *oryzae* on *Digitaria marginata* and *Eleusine coracana* in India, study on, 581.
- on rice in China, 255, 444; Formosa, 443; Greece, 95; India, 314, 379, 581; Italy, 335; Malaya, 463; Rumania, 381; Turkey, 350; control, 255; culture of, 582; factors affecting, 255, 444, 445; (?) identical with *P. grisea*, 350; physiologic races of, 582; study on, 581; varietal reaction to, 335, 443, 444, 446, 463.
- on *Setaria italica* in India, 581; *Piricularia setariae* synonym of, 581; study on, 581.
- , spore formation by, in culture, 494.
- *setariae* synonym of *P. oryzae*, 581.
- Pistacia terebinthus*, *Uromyces terebinthi* on, in Turkey, 114.
- Pistacio nut* (*Pistacia vera*), *Uromyces terebinthi* on, in Turkey, 114.
- Pisum sativum*, see Pea.
- Pitiosporum crassifilium*, *Rosellinia necatrix* on, in England, 462.
- Plane tree, see *Platanus*.
- Plant biology applied to agriculture, book on, 574.
- diseases, application of serology to, 82.
- , book on, 144, 375.
- , control of, 432; suggested legislation for, on an international basis, 432.
- , distribution of, effect of rainfall on, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 190.
- , list of, in China, 377; Germany, 9; Madagascar, 79; Oklahoma, 248, 586; Tanganyika Territory, 158; U.S.A., 357; U.S.S.R., 52.
- , losses from, in U.S.A., 139.
- , nature and prevention of, handbook on, 375.
- , physiology of resistance to, 490.
- , spread of, in relation to plant size, 218; through international plant trade, 448; surveys of, 355; in U.S.A., 10.
- , transmission of, 330.
- , use of the term 'resistance' in, 575.
- extracts, effect of, on germination of conidia in *Venturia inaequalis*, 25.
- galls, paper on, 123.
- , mineral deficiencies of, symposium on, 42.
- nutrition, trace elements in relation to, 42, 437.
- pathologists, training of, in India, 144.
- protection, 289; in Bulgaria, 376; in connexion with agriculture, 123; infringements of laws for, in Denmark, 144; international organization for, 436; service for, in Denmark, 143; Saxony, 123; statistics of, 123.
- quarantine in Germany, problems of, 304.
- tissue culture, 329.
- tumours and animal cancer, study on, 178.
- viruses, see Viruses.
- Plantago lanceolata*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- , tobacco mosaic virus on, 161.
- major, *Alternaria cichorii* on, in Turkey, 351.
- , *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- Plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*), *Ceratostomella paradoxa*, *Fusarium oxysporum* var. *cubense*, and *Helminthosporium torulosum* on, in Brazil, 100.
- Plasmodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, control, 213.
- on crucifers in U.S.A., 355, 464; control, 32.
- Plasmopara nivea* on carrot in England, 462.
- *viticola* on vine in Bulgaria, 62; Costa Rica, 460; Germany, 217; Madagascar, 80; Rumania, 311; Switzerland, 272, 436; U.S.A., 509; breeding against, 217; control, 62, 272, 407, 408, 436, 509, 553; culture of, 330; study on, 311; technique for testing fungicides against, 407; varietal reaction to, 80, 218, 460.
- Platanus*, *Ceratostomella* and *Endoconidiophora* on, in U.S.A., 341.
- *acerifolia* and *P. occidentalis*, *Endoconidiophora* on, in U.S.A., 50.
- *occidentalis*, *Gnomonia veneta* on, in France, 396.
- Plenodomus destruens* on sweet potato in the Belgian Congo, 123; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353.
- *meliloti*, 527.
- Pleocyta sacchari* on sugar-cane in Queensland, 385.
- Pleospora calvescens* on opium poppy in Germany, 124; Switzerland, 155; reactions of host-plant to, 155.
- *herbarum* on cucumber, 405.
- on date palm in U.S.A., 431.
- on *Ephedra* and paper, cultural study on, 387.
- Plum (*Prunus domestica*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in Holland, 244; Hungary, 140; U.S.A., 372.
- , *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, in U.S.A., 372; control, 276; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, 188.
- chlorosis, control, 430.
- , *Clasterosporium carpophilum* and *Cytospora* on, in Holland, 244.
- , *Dibotryon morbosum* on, in Canada, 354.
- dwarf virus on plum and *Prunus cerasifera*, 27.
- , fluorine excess in, in U.S.A., 285.
- internal browning, control, 75.
- marginal scorch in U.S.A., 285.
- , *Nectria cinnabarina* on, 188.
- , peach mosaic virus on, in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, transmission of, by *Anuraphis padi*, 27.
- , *Pholiota squarrosa* and *Phomopsis* on, in Holland, 244.
- , *Polystigma rubrum* on, in Yugoslavia, 26.
- , *Pseudomonas cerasi* on, in U.S.A., 429.
- , — *mors-prunorum* on, in Holland, 244; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , — *prunicola* on, in Holland, 244.
- , *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in Spain, 386; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 139; Yugoslavia, 26; control, 26.
- , *Sclerotinia fructigena* on, in England, 371.
- , — *laxa* on, in England, 371; France, 430.
- , *Sclerotium salicinum* on, in Rumania, 387.
- , *Stereum purpureum* on, 188; in Holland, 245; Hungary, 140; physiology of, 490.
- 'suffocation' in Holland, 244.
- , *Taphrina deformans* on, in U.S.A., 481.
- , — *pruni* on, in Yugoslavia, 26.
- , *Torula* on, 251.
- , *Verticillium dahliae* on, in Holland, 244.
- , *Willia* on, 251.
- , *Xanthomonas pruni* on, in New Zealand, 116; Queensland, 189.
- , *Zygocaccharomyces* on, 251.
- Poa*, *Claviceps purpurea* on, 558.
- *abyssinica*, maize streak virus on, in S. Africa, 351.
- *pratensis*, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 323.
- , *Helminthosporium sativum* on, resistance to, 136.
- , *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.

- [*Poa pratensis*], *Ustilago striiformis* on, in U.S.A., 136; culture of, 136.
- Podonectria coccicola* on scale insects in Peru, 542; *Tetracium coccicola* imperfect state of, 542.
- Podosphaera leucotricha* on apple in Brazil, 122; France, 425; Rumania, 274; Switzerland, 273, 369; Tanganyika Territory, 158; control, 273, 369; varietal reaction to, 425.
- on pear in France, 425.
- Polygonum*, Ustilaginales on, taxonomy of, 46.
- Polyporaceae* in U.S.A., 166, 451.
- Polyporus* in New S. Wales, 105.
- *adiposus* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- *amorphus* on *Abies balsamea*, pine, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, and spruce in U.S.A., 167.
- *basilaris* on *Cupressus macrocarpa* in U.S.A., 545.
- *borealis* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- *caneus* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- *cinnabarinus*, hyphal proliferation in, 499.
- *cutifractus* on *Cupressus macrocarpa* in U.S.A., 545.
- *obtusus* on *Acer*, beech, *Carya*, *Liquidambar*, oak, *Pyrus*, *Robinia*, and walnut in N. America, 266.
- *picipes* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- *schweinitzii* can infect bean and lupin, 546.
- on pine in U.S.A., 546.
- on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- *squamosus* in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
- *sulphureus* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- var. *ceratoniae* on carob tree, 25.
- *zonalis* on timber in Australia, 302.
- Polyspora lini* on flax in Eire, 236; New Zealand, 19; Northern Ireland, 523; Western Australia, 20; technique for detecting, 19; varietal reaction to, 236, 523.
- Polystictus abietinus* on timber in Canada, 343.
- *ostreiformis* on timber in Ceylon, 51.
- *versicolor* on timber, control, 343.
- , use of, as a test organism for wood preservatives, 303.
- Polystigma rubrum* on plum in Yugoslavia, 26.
- Pomarsol, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 428; *V. pirina*, 376.
- Pomelo, see Grapefruit.
- Popillia japonica*, *Bacillus popilliae* on, in U.S.A., 363; culture of, 19.
- Poplar (*Populus*), bacterial canker of, in Great Britain, 590.
- , *Cytospora chrysosperma* and *Dothichiza populea* on, in Great Britain, 590.
- , frost injury to, causing die-back in England, 501.
- , 'leprosy' disease in Italy, 394.
- , *Melampsora* on, in Great Britain, 590.
- , — *allii-populina* on, in Turkey, 115.
- , — *medusae* on, in France, 257.
- Poria ferrea* on alder in U.S.A., 207.
- *hypobrunnea* on tea, 260.
- *hypolateritia* on tea in Ceylon, 297.
- *subacida* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
- *vallantii*, cytochemical changes of pine wood caused by, 504.
- *vaporaria*, cytochemical changes of pine wood caused by, 504.
- on timber, 397.
- , toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- , use of, as a test organism for wood preservatives, 303.
- *xantha* on timber in Australia, 302; control, 268.
- Portulaca oleracea*, *Cystopus portulacae* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Porzol, use of, as a seed treatment for cabbage, eggplant and lettuce, 399.
- Potassium deficiency in apple, 74; in New Zealand, 370; Switzerland, 530; bean in England, 462; broad bean in England, 57, 462; *Chrysanthemum* in England, 113; fruit trees in Holland, 427; pear in Switzerland, 530; tobacco in Italy, 201.
- excess in boysenberry in S. Africa, 141; grapefruit and orange in U.S.A., 520; young-berry in S. Africa, 141.
- pentasulphide, use of, against *Oidium ceratoniae* on *Ceratonia siliqua*, 25.
- sulphate, use of, against potassium deficiency in apple, 74.
- , see also Fertilizers.
- Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), *Actinomyces* on, in Holland, 194; antagonism of, to *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 293.
- , — *scabies* on, 294; in Australia, 37; Holland, 194; Rumania, 443; U.S.A., 85, 88, 121, 152, 466, 492, 540; breeding against, 34, 579; control, 37, 119, 121, 193; factors affecting, 152; new form of, 443; rotation of varieties as a control measure for, 194; varietal reaction to, 34, 85, 88, 119, 121, 151, 194, 492, 540.
- , *Alternaria solani* on, in Assam, 411; Brazil, 100; Canada, 39; Denmark, 443; India, 89; Madagascar, 81; Southern Rhodesia, 118; U.S.A., 89, 574, 581; control, 89, 118, 331, 411, 574, 581; factors affecting, 443; varietal reaction to, 351.
- , bacteria on, 293; in Finland, 579.
- , bacterial red xylem disease of, in U.S.A., 494.
- black heart and black spotting in Switzerland, 153.
- breeding, report on, 291.
- , calcium deficiency in, in England, 195.
- , 'central necrosis', factors affecting, 93.
- , *Chaetomium* on, antagonism of, to *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 293.
- collection of the British Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, 380.
- , copper deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in Australia, 37; Germany, 90; Switzerland, 220; Tasmania, 578; U.S.A., 152; U.S.S.R., 36, 37; control, 37, 193; factors affecting, 36, 37, 152, 254; time of infection and cumulative effect of, 334; varietal reaction to, 36, 90, 152, 193.
- , *Corynebacterium sepedonicum* on, in Canada, 537, 554; Europe and France, 537; Switzerland, imported from U.S.A., 153; U.S.A., 39, 85, 86, 118, 332, 492, 537; antagonism of micro-organisms to, 293; breeding against, 37; control, 38, 86, 91, 118, 332, 537; effect of, on yield, 537; factors affecting, 38; legislation against, proposed, in Canada, 537; not found on commercial or certified seed crops in British Columbia, 354; persistence of, on potato bags, 39; rate of spread of, 332; seed certification against, 537; transmission of, 537; varietal reaction to, 37, 85, 86, 332, 492, 537.
- crinkle in Finland, 578; Sweden, 192.
- cultivation, review of, 334.
- , *Cylindrocarpum* on, in Finland, 579.
- degeneration in Switzerland, 149; factors affecting, 538; virus origin of, 124, 149 (see also mosaic of, virus diseases of, &c.).
- diseases in the Belgian Congo, 361; Germany, 248; U.S.S.R., 52; breeding against, 291; bulletin on, 332.

- [Potato] dwarf mosaic virus, 491.
 —, effect of some fungicides and insecticides on, 31.
 —, *Erwinia phytophthora* on, in U.S.A., 86, 90, 119; factors affecting, 124; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 86, 123, 124, 579.
 —, *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 118.
 —, *Eumerus strigatus* on, in U.S.A., 90.
 —, figure-aucuba mosaic in Holland, 33.
 —, frisolée mosaic virus in Madagascar, 81.
 —, frost damage to, relation between spray treatments and, 39.
 —, *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 90, 119, 536.
 —, — *avenaceum* on, in Finland, 579.
 —, — *caeruleum* on, in Finland, 579; Scotland, 292; U.S.A., 175.
 —, — *merismoides* on, in Finland, 579.
 —, — *oxysporum* on, in Fiji, 9.
 —, — *sambucinum* on, in Finland, 579.
 —, — — f. 6 on, in U.S.A., 176.
 —, — *solani* on, in Finland, 579.
 —, — — var. *eumartii* on, in U.S.A., 86.
 —, hollow heart in Switzerland, 153; U.S.A., 85.
 —, internal browning in U.S.A., 86.
 —, mahogany browning, varietal reaction to, 92.
 —, — rust spot in Switzerland, 153.
 —, leaf roll virus on potato in Belgium, 441; Colombia, 192; Sweden, 192; Switzerland, 149; Tasmania, 578; U.S.A., 85, 86, 332, 493; breeding against, 291, 332, 580; early detection of, 123, 124; factors affecting, 538; isolation of scopolletin from tubers infected with, 492; technique for diagnosing, 578; transmission of, by aphids, 538; *Myzus persicae*, 87, 150; to *Datura stramonium*, *Physalis angulata*, and *P. floridana*, 493; varietal reaction to, 85, 86, 151, 332, 493, 578.
 —, low temperature breakdown of, in Canada, 335.
 —, *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in France, 536.
 —, manganese deficiency in, in Denmark, 410.
 —, mild mosaic in U.S.A., 85; varietal reaction to, 85, 539.
 —, mosaic virus in Belgium, 441; U.S.A., 86; varietal reaction to, 539.
 (?) — mottle in Finland, 578.
 —, *Myrothecium roridum* on, in England, 462.
 —, net necrosis in U.S.A., 85.
 —, paracrinkle virus, origin of, 538.
 —, *Penicillium* on, antagonism of, to *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 293; control, 152.
 —, *Phytophthora infestans* on, in Argentina, 580; Assam, 411; the Belgian Congo, 123; Canada, 194; Central Africa, 377; Denmark, 411; England, 88; Finland, 579; Java, 35; Sweden, 293, 442; Switzerland, 220, 442; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353; U.S.A., 36, 85, 86, 88, 89, 122, 151, 254, 292, 355, 437, 540, 574; breeding against, 34, 35, 88, 151, 291, 579; control, 32, 88, 89, 194, 254, 293, 411, 442, 539, 574; culture and storage of, 195; effect of, on yield, 540; factors affecting, 442; forecasting outbreaks of, 88, 292, 437; losses caused by, 411; measurement of, 89; new strain of, 224; non-recurrence of, in Southern Rhodesia, 118; overwintering of, 36, 442; physiological races of, 580; strains of, in Scotland, 151; varietal reaction to, 34, 35, 85, 86, 88, 122, 151, 175, 220, 312, 351, 411, 539, 540, 579, 580.
 —, production in Czechoslovakia and Holland, 380.
 [Potato] purple top in U.S.A., 86.
 —, research in North America, 493.
 —, rotting in Assam, 411.
 —, rugose mosaic, 334.
 —, seed certification in Switzerland, 220; U.S.A., 440.
 —, — piece decay in U.S.A., 119.
 —, — treatment with zinc oxide, addendum to paper on, 192.
 —, 'small tuber' disease, 123.
 —, spindle tuber virus in U.S.A., 86, 176.
 —, *Spondylocladium atrovirens* on, in Turkey, 350.
 —, *Spongopora subterranea* on, in Denmark, 411; Greece, 95; Italy, 539; breeding against, 579; control, 539; mode of infection in, 151.
 —, sprayer wheel injury to, in U.S.A., 540.
 —, stem end discoloration, 85, 86; in England, 153; Switzerland, 153; U.S.A., 536; factors affecting, 154, 294.
 —, stem mottle disease in Holland, study on, 33.
 —, stem streak necrosis in U.S.A., 40.
 —, *Stemphylium consorsiale* on, in British Columbia, 40; transmission of, to *Datura stramonium*, *Nicotiana glauca*, *Solanum nigrum*, tobacco, and tomato, 40.
 —, stitched end in U.S.A., 91.
 —, *Synchytrium endobioticum* on, in Denmark, 580; Rumania, 274; S. Africa, 351; Switzerland, 220; breeding against, 291; legislation against, in Persia, 352; S. Africa, 351; physiology of, 490; spread of, 580; varietal reaction to, 292, 351.
 —, tobacco leaf curl virus on, 544; transmission of, by *Bemisia gossypiperda*, 578; to tobacco and tomato, 578.
 —, tomato big bud virus on, in U.S.S.R., 48; potato yellows identical with, 48; transmission of, by *Hyalostyles obsoletus*, 48.
 —, — spotted wilt virus on, in Canberra, 222, 380; New S. Wales, 34, 222, 380; Victoria, 380; transmission of, by insects, 34; *Thrips tabaci*, 380; variation in, 222.
 —, *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in U.S.A., 119.
 —, virus diseases in Finland, 578; Switzerland, 149, 220, 437; U.S.A., 34; breeding against, 34; control, 123, 150; factors affecting, 220; oxidation-reduction potentials of plant tissues in relation to, 123; relation between size of plant and spread of disease, 538; suggested eradication of peach trees against, 124; transmission of, by aphids, 123, 538; *Myzus persicae*, 150, 538; use of ultra-violet rays for detecting, 34; varietal reaction to, 34, 579. (See also degeneration, mosaic, &c.)
 —, — A on potato in India, 91; breeding against, 579; strains of, 491; varietal reaction to, 149, 491, 579.
 —, — B on potato, breeding against, 579.
 —, — C on potato in England, 332; breeding against, 579; comparison of, with potato virus Y, 332; varietal reaction to, 332, 579.
 —, — on tobacco, comparison of, with potato virus Y, 332.
 —, — X on *Atropa belladonna*, 263.
 —, — on potato in Australia, 222; India, 91; U.S.A., 150, 334; breeding against, 579; effect of *Phytolacca esculenta* extracts on, 508; of spinach extracts on, 58; non-transmission of, by cutting tubers, 441; properties of, 536; purification of, 200, 491; spread of, 577; strains of, 577; technique for determining, 149; transmission of, to *Datura stramonium*, tobacco and tomato, 577; tuber-indexing of,

- 222; variation in properties of, 491; varietal reaction to, 149, 150, 222, 579.
- [Potato virus X] on tobacco, appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272.
- on tomato, effect of, on resistance to *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici*, 588.
- Y on potato, 491; in Belgium, 441; England, 332; (?) Finland, 578; India, 91; Sweden, 192; Switzerland, 150; U.S.A., 334; comparison of, with potato virus C, 332; control, 150; technique for determining, 149; transmission of, by *Aphis rhamni*, *Macrosiphum euphorbiae* and *Myzus persicae*, 441; to tobacco, 441; varietal reaction to, 149, 151, 312, 332, 334, 579.
- on tobacco, appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272; comparison of, with potato virus C, 332; transmission of, by aphids, 332, 334.
- , *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Java, 35; Southern Rhodesia, 117; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353; Victoria, 491; breeding against, 35; control, 35; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 35, 491.
- yellow dwarf virus on *Nicotiana rustica*, electron microscopy of, 538.
- on potato in U.S.A., 86.
- yellows identical with tomato big bud virus, 48.
- Preparation 2, 4-D, use of, against *Penicillium digitatum* on orange, 471; as a herbicide, 64.
- 33J-4, use of, as a seed treatment for maize, 356.
- 307, use of, against *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476.
- 341 A, 341 B, 341 C, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 371.
- 1452 F, use of, as a seed treatment for maize, 356.
- A, use of, as a seed treatment for radish, 168.
- C, use of, as a seed treatment for radish, 168.
- G 11, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 254.
- H, use of, as a seed treatment for radish, 168.
- Prickly pear, see *Opuntia*.
- Primula juliae*, *Cercospora primulae* on, in England, 79.
- *malacoides*, enation disease of, in U.S.A., 566.
- , tobacco necrosis virus can infect, 22.
- *obconica*, *Pythium* on, in England, 111.
- , tobacco necrosis virus on, in England, 22; transmission of, to bean, cucumber, *Nicotiana glutinosa* and tobacco, 22.
- *vulgaris*, tobacco necrosis virus can infect, 22.
- *wanda*, *Cercospora primulae* on, in England, 79.
- Propyl mercuric chloride, toxicity of, to *Didymella lycopersici*, 112.
- Propylene chloride, toxicity of, to bacteria and fungi, 190.
- glycol aerosol, use of, in sterilizing air, 249.
- —, toxicity of, to *Aspergillus niger*, *Penicillium*, and *Sclerotinia fructicola*, 249.
- oxide, toxicity of, to bacteria and fungi, 189.
- Prune, see Plum.
- Prunus*, *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in U.S.A., 139.
- *amygdalus*, see Almond.
- *armeniaca*, see Apricot.
- *avium*, see Cherry.
- *besseyi*, *Taphrina deformans* on, in U.S.A., 481.
- *cerasifera* curl disease in Austria, 189.
- [*Prunus cerasifera*], peach mosaic virus on, in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, 27; transmission of, by *Anuraphis padi*, 27.
- —, plum dwarf virus on, 27.
- —, *Pseudomonas cerasi* on, in U.S.A., 429.
- —, *Puccinia pruni-spinosae* on, in Rumania, 387.
- —, *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in Hungary, 139.
- *cerasus*, see Cherry.
- *domestica*, see Plum.
- *insititia*, see Damson.
- *padus*, *Pucciniastrum padi* on, 206.
- *persica*, see Nectarine, Peach.
- *salicina*, *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, control, 276.
- *serotina*, *Sclerotinia seaveri* on, in U.S.A., 244.
- *triloba*, peach mosaic virus on, in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, 27; transmission of, by *Anuraphis padi*, 27.
- *virginiana*, peach X-disease virus on, in U.S.A., 531; control, 532; inactivation of, 532; transmission of, by budding and grafting, 531.
- Psalliota*, see Mushroom.
- Pseudobalsamia microspora* on mushroom, 347; in Argentina, 215; control, 216.
- Pseudobeltrania cedrela* on *Cedrela* in Peru, 542.
- Pseudococcus citri*, *Myiophagus ucrainicus* can infect, 420.
- transmitting cacao swollen shoot virus, 516, 557; cacao viruses 1 C and 1 D, 178, 179.
- *gahani*, *Aspergillus* (?) *parasiticus* on, 132.
- *longispinus*, *Myiophagus ucrainicus* on, 420.
- *njalensis* transmitting cacao swollen shoot virus, 515, 516, 557; cacao viruses 1 B and 1 D, 178, 179.
- Pseudomonadaceae, taxonomy of, 513.
- Pseudomonas*, taxonomy of, 512.
- *angulata* on tobacco in Southern Rhodesia, 200.
- *cerasi* on plum and *Prunus cerasifera* in U.S.A., 429.
- *coronafaciens*, antagonism of *Bacillus subtilis* to, 357.
- *delphinii* on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- *fluorescens*, physiology of, 515.
- *fraxini* on ash, geographical distribution of, 96.
- *glycines* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
- *graveolens* in food, 489.
- *holci* on sudan grass in Rumania, 479.
- *lacrymans* on cucumber, 405; in U.S.A., 109.
- *maculicola*, tobacco speck spot previously attributed to, 201.
- *mangiferae-indicae* on mango in India, 533; culture of, 533.
- *marginalis* on chicory, endive, and lettuce in Argentina, 404.
- *medicaginis*, toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 356.
- — var. *phaseolicola* on bean in Holland, 456; New Zealand, 116; Yugoslavia, 6; control, 116, 591; factors affecting, 124, 457; inactivation of, 189; seed certification against, 343; toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 356; varietal reaction to, 116, 456.
- *mors-prunorum* on cherry in England, 76; New S. Wales, 27; geographical distribution of, 96.
- on peach in Holland, 244.
- on plum in Holland, 244; geographical distribution of, 96.
- —, synonym of *Agrobacterium mors-prunorum*, 513.

- [*Pseudomonas*] *pisi* on pea, control, 591.
 — *prunicola* on cherry in New S. Wales, 27.
 — on peach and plum in Holland, 244.
 — *savastanoi* on olive, geographical distribution of, 96.
 — synonym of *Agrobacterium savastanoi*, 513.
 — var. *nerii*, synonym of *Agrobacterium tonellianum*, 513.
 — *tabacum* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7, 10.
 — on tobacco in U.S.A., 64; factors affecting, 124.
 —, toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 356.
 — *tolaasi* on mushroom, 592; in England, 111.
Pseudoperonospora cubensis on cantaloupe in U.S.A., 66; varietal reaction to, 313.
 — on cucumber in U.S.A., 506; control, 8, 248, 343, 436, 506.
 — on Cucurbitaceae in U.S.A., 215, 346, 437; factors affecting, 215; forecasting service for, 346, 437.
 — on melon, squash, and vegetable marrow, control, 343.
 — *humuli* on hops in Spain, 386; U.S.A., 174, 509; control, 174, 248, 509; varietal reaction to, 296.
Pseudopeziza medicaginis on lucerne in Rumania, 274; Spain, 114; U.S.A., 24; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 24.
 — *ribis* on currants in England, 371.
 — *tracheiphila* on vine in Switzerland, 272.
 — *trifolii* on clover in Argentina, 257.
Pseudotsuga taxifolia, *Fomes annosus* on, in England, 500.
 —, *Phaeocryptopus gaeumannii* on, in England, 591; Holland, 166.
 —, *Phomopsis pseudotsugae* on, 546.
 —, *Polyporus amorphus* on, in U.S.A., 167.
 —, *Rhabdocline pseudotsugae* on, in Scotland, 505.
 —, (?) *Sclerotinia fuckeliana* on, in U.S.A., 503.
Pteridium aquilinum, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
Puccinia, *Eudarlucula australis* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 — on barley in Iran, 227.
 — on maize and sorghum in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 — on wheat in Argentina, 67; Iran, 227.
 — *allii* on *Allium ampeloprasum* in Turkey, 114.
 — on garlic in Scotland, intercepted from Portugal, 462.
 — *angivyi* on eggplant in Madagascar, 81.
 — *anomala*, see *P. hordei*.
 — *antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum majus* in Greece, 95; Rumania, 274; Spain, 386; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 239; control, 239, 248.
 — *bromina* on *Bromus*, morphology of, 518.
 — *carthami* on safflower in France, 383, 541; overwintering of, 541.
 — *chrysanthemi* on *Chrysanthemum* in New S. Wales, 136.
 — *cichorii* on chicory in Turkey, 114.
 — *coronata* on oats in Argentina, 67; Madagascar, 80; U.S.A., 64, 360, 468, 567; breeding against, 15; effect of, on yield, 468; formation of fusion bodies from uredospore germ-tubes in, 127; varietal reaction to, 15, 182, 360, 468, 567.
 — *dispersa* on wheat in Spain, 114; formation of fusion bodies from uredospore germ-tubes in, 127.
 — *flaveriae* on *Calendula officinalis* in U.S.A., 525.
[Puccinia] *glumarum*, host range and morphology of, 518.
 — on *Aegilops cylindrica* and *A. ovata* in Turkey, 114.
 — on *Agropyron* in Iran, 227.
 — on barley in Bulgaria, 376; Turkey, 114.
 — on *Brachypodium*, *Bromus*, and *Elymus* in Iran, 227.
 — on *Hordeum murinum* in Turkey, 114.
 — on rye in Bulgaria, 376; Turkey, 114.
 — on wheat in Bulgaria, 376; India, 314, 358; Iran, 227; Kenya, 68, 312; Madagascar, 80; Turkey, 114; effect of, on yield, 314; factors affecting, 312; morphology of, 518; physiologic races of, 312, 376; physiology of, 490; varietal reaction to, 114, 312.
 — *graminis*, *Darlucula filum* on, in India, 560.
 —, formation of fusion bodies from uredospore germ-tubes in, 127.
 — in Bulgaria, 376; Kenya, 311; physiologic races of, 376.
 —, intervarietal crossing in, 315.
 — on *Agropyron repens* in Turkey, 114.
 — on barberry in Iran, 227.
 — on barley in Canada, 553; Turkey, 114; breeding against, 15, 561; genetics of, 231; varietal reaction to, 15.
 — on cereals in Canada, 553; Switzerland, 220; U.S.A., 64, 414; barberry eradication against, 64; control, 64; physiologic races of, 554; varietal reaction to, 553.
 — on *Elymus caput-medusae* in Turkey, 114.
 — on grasses in Iran, 227.
 — on oats in Argentina, 67; Canada, 553; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 64, 468, 567; breeding against, 15; varietal reaction to, 15, 126, 182, 468, 567.
 — on wheat in Australia, 517; the Belgian Congo, 123; Canada, 553; Cyprus, 556; Egypt, 357; India, 314, 315, 358; Iran, 227; Kenya, 68, 312; Madagascar, 80; Mexico, 278; Queensland, 69; S. Australia, 12; Tanganyika Territory, 353; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 64; U.S.S.R., 226; breeding against, 12; control, 358; effect of, on yield, 314; factors affecting, 12, 357; genetics of, 12; over-summering and overwintering of, 11; physiologic races of, 312; varietal reaction to, 11, 12, 69, 123, 126, 221, 226, 278, 312, 313, 353, 357, 358, 490, 517, 553.
 — *hordei*, formation of fusion bodies from uredospore germ-tubes in, 127.
 — on barley in New S. Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, 316; breeding against, 15, 561.
 — on *Hordeum* in Iran, 227.
 — on *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* in England, 560.
 — *maritimi* on *Hordeum*, morphology of, 518.
 — *liliacearum* on *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* in England, 560.
 — *loliina* on *Lolium* in Spain and Switzerland, 158; specimens previously referred to *P. glumarum*, 158.
 — *lupinicola* on lupin in U.S.A., 240.
 — *malvacearum* on hollyhock and other Malvaceae in Turkey, 115.
 — *maydis* on maize and *Oxalis stricta* in Switzerland, 220; formation of fusion bodies from uredospore germ-tubes in, 127.
 — *menthae* on *Mentha*, control, 53; specific reaction to, 356.
 — on *Mentha arvensis piperascens*, *M. crispata*, *M. spicata*, and peppermint, breeding against, 120.

- [*Puccinia*] *peridermiospora* on ash in U.S.A., 502.
 — *persistens* on *Agropyron*, morphology of, 518.
 — — on *Agropyron repens* in Turkey, 115.
 — *porri* on chives in Canada, 555.
 — *pruni-spinosae* on almond in Spain, 386; in U.S.A., 139.
 — — on *Anemone coronaria* in Turkey, 115.
 — — on apricot in Brazil, 122; Turkey, 115.
 — — on cherry in New S. Wales, 27.
 — — on damson in U.S.A., 139.
 — — on peach in Spain, 386; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 139.
 — — on plum in Spain, 386; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 139; Yugoslavia, 26.
 — — on *Prunus cerasifera* in Rumania, 387.
 — — on stone fruits, 372.
 — *psidii* on *Campomansia aurea* in Brazil, 122.
 — *triticea*, *Darluka filum* on, in India, 560.
 — —, formation of fusion bodies from uredospore germ-tubes in, 127.
 — — in Bulgaria, physiologic races of, 376.
 — — on barley in India, 517.
 — — on cereals in Iran, 227.
 — — on *Thalictrum*, 227.
 — — on wheat, 517; in Canada, 467, 554; China, 128; India, 314, 358; Kenya, 68; Madagascar, 80; Mexico, 277; Queensland, 69; South Australia, 559; Switzerland, 220; Tanganyika Territory, 224; U.S.A., 120, 358; U.S.S.R., 11; breeding against, 12, 128; control, 467; effect of, on yield, 314, 467; factors affecting, 11; forecasting outbreaks of, 358; genetics of, 12; morphology of, 518; over-summering and over-wintering of, 11; physiologic races of, 120, 128; physiology of, 490; varietal reaction to, 11, 69, 120, 126, 128, 221, 226, 278, 312, 313, 358, 554, 559.
Pucciniastrum goeppertianum on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
 — *myrtilli* on *Rhododendron nudiflorum* and *R. viscosum* in U.S.A., 45.
 — — on *Tsuga* in U.S.A., 30.
 — — on *Tsuga canadensis* in U.S.A., 45.
 — — on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 30.
 — *padi* on damson and *Prunus padus*, 206.
 — — on spruce in Norway, 206.
Pueraria hirsuta, *Mycosphaerella pueraricola* on, in U.S.A., 478; *Cercospora pueraricola* imperfect state of, 479.
Pullularia pullulans on timber in Sweden, 211.
 — —, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106; of some Hymenomycetes to, 211.
 Pumpkin, see Vegetable marrow.
 Puratized, injury to plants, 31.
 —, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 356.
 —, agricultural spray injury to *Narcissus*, 512.
 — —, use of, against *Colletotrichum lilii* on lily, 186; *Curvularia* (?) *lunata* on *Gladiolus*, 525; *Fusarium bulbigenum* on *Narcissus*, 512; *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *Venturia inaequalis*, 510.
 — N5E, inhibitory effect of arasan on, 187.
 — —, use of, against *Colletotrichum lilii* on lily, 186; *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *batatas* and *F. ozymorcom* f. 2 on sweet potato, 466.
 — N5X, use of, against *Colletotrichum lilii* on lily, 186.
 Puraturf, use of, against *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476.
 Putty, use of, as a wound dressing, 242.
Pyrausta nubilalis in relation to *Erwinia carotovora* on chilli, 507.
Pyrenochaeta in soil in U.S.A., 519.
 — on cotton textiles, 487.
Pyrenopeziza medicaginis on lucerne, geographical distribution of, 96.
Pyrenophora avenae on oats in Great Britain, 127; Madagascar, 81; Turkey, 350; U.S.A., 180, 510; breeding against, 15; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 15.
 — *teres* on barley in Argentina, 67.
 Pyrethrum, see *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*.
 Pyridinium chloride, use of, against *Corynebacterium sepedonicum*, 38.
 Pyridyl mercuric stearate, effect of, on prepared and synthetic rubber, 41.
Pyrus, *Polyporus obtusus* on, in N. America, 266.
 — *betulaefolia* and *P. calleryana*, *Armillaria mellea* on, in U.S.A., 372.
 — *communis*, see Pear.
 — *lindleyi*, *Gymnosporangium haraeaeum* on, in China, 258.
 — *malus*, see Apple.
 — *pyrifolia*, *Gymnosporangium haraeaeum* on, in China, 258.
 Pythiaceae on papaw in S. Africa, 352.
Pythium in soil, control, 305.
 — on banana in New S. Wales, 77.
 — on beet in Austria, 208; U.S.A., 4, 402.
 — on Brussels sprouts in U.S.A., 54.
 — on cabbage in U.S.A., 54; control, 54, 213.
 — on *Cinchona* in the Belgian Congo, 123.
 (?) — on conifers in England, 500.
 — on flax in Western Australia, 21.
 — on mangold in England, 462.
 — on *Matthiola incana* in New S. Wales, 275.
 — on papaw in E. Africa, 483; factors affecting, 576.
 — on pea, control, 4.
 — on *Primula obconica* in England, 111.
 — on rice in Formosa, 446.
 — on sugar-cane, antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 297.
 — on tea, 260.
 — on wheat, varietal reaction to, 11.
 — *aphanidermatum* on papaw in E. Africa, 483.
 — *arrhenomanes* on cereals and grasses in U.S.A., 136.
 — — on rice in Brazil, 154.
 — — on wheat, recovery following initial stunting in, 316.
 — *debaryanum* on *Agropyron cristatum* and *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
 — — on cereals and grasses in U.S.A., 136.
 (?) — — on *Kochia scoparia* in U.S.A., 479.
 (?) — — on tomato in England, 111.
 — — on vegetables, control, 53.
 — —, physiology of, 490.
 — —, use of, as a test organism in evaluating fungicides, 32, 367.
 — *dissotocum* on sugar-cane, antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 297.
 — *graminicola* on barley in U.S.A., 179.
 — — on cereals and grasses in U.S.A., 136.
 (?) — — on sugar-cane, varietal reaction to, 96.
 — — on vegetables, control, 53.
 — *indicum* on *Hibiscus esculentus* in India, 572; host range of, 573.
 — *irregularis* on cereals and grasses in U.S.A., 136.
 — *perilum* on sugar-cane, antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 297.
 — *ultimum* on *Agropyron cristatum* in Canada, 241.
 — — on beet in U.S.A., 2, 344.
 — — on *Bromus inermis* in Canada, 241.
 — — on cereals in U.S.A., 136.
 — — on cucumber in England, 462.

- [*Pythium ultimum*] on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
 — on flax in Argentina, 412.
 — on grasses in U.S.A., 136.
 — on pea in U.S.A., 169, 344.
 — on plants in Argentina, 204.
 — on spinach in U.S.A., 344.
 — on tulip in U.S.A., 323.
 — on watermelon in U.S.A., 344.
 — *vezans* on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- Quercus*, see Oak.
- Quince (*Cydonia vulgaris*), *Gymnosporangium confusum* on, in Turkey, 115.
 —, — *globosum* on, geographical distribution of, 96.
- Quinhydrone, use of, against peach X-disease virus, 532.
- Quinoline sulphate, use of, against *Cercospora herpotrichoides*, 558.
- Radish (*Raphanus sativus*), *Alternaria* on, in U.S.A., 344.
 —, — *brassicae* on, in Argentina, 257; U.S.A., 344.
 —, — *brassicicola*, *A. raphani*, and *A. tenuis* on, in U.S.A., 344.
 —, *Cercospora albo-maculans* on, in Argentina, 257.
 —, — *brassicae* on, in Turkey, 350.
 —, *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
 —, *Phoma lingam* can infect, 306.
 — root rots, role of plant residues in etiology of, 402.
 — seed treatment, 168, 399.
- Ramularia* on ornamental plants, control, 422.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
 — *carthamicola* on safflower in France, 383.
 — *cynaræ* on artichoke in Turkey, 350.
 — *sorgi* on sorghum in Tanganyika Territory, 159.
 — *tulasnei* imperfect state of *Mycosphaerella fragariae*, 100.
 — *vaccinii* on *Vaccinium*, *Septoria difformis* apparently identical with, 30.
 — *vallisumbrosae* on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
 — on *Narcissus poeticus* in Denmark, 411.
- Ramulispora sorgi* on sorghum in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- Ranunculus ficaria*, *Entyloma ranunculi* on, in Turkey, 115.
 — *repens*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- Rape (*Brassica napus* var. *oleifera*), *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
 — diseases in Germany, breeding against, 248.
 —, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
- Raphanus raphanistrum*, *Cercospora brassicae* on, in Turkey, 350.
 — *sativus*, see Radish.
- Raphiolepis indica*, *Fabraea maculata* on, in New S. Wales, 275.
- Raspberry (*Rubus*) brown berry disease in U.S.A., 481.
 — 'curly dwarf' virus in Scotland, 141; transmission of, by *Amphorophora rubi* and *Aphis idaei*, 141.
 — degeneration in Great Britain, 246.
 —, *Didymella applanata* on, in Rumania, 274.
 —, *Elsinoe veneta* on, in U.S.A., 509.
 — leaf diseases in U.S.A., 574.
 — mosaic virus in Great Britain, 141, 246; technique for diagnosing, 246; transmission of, by *Amphorophora rubi* and *Aphis idaei*, 141.
 —, Scottish leaf curl virus on, in Great Britain, 247.
- [Raspberry] streak virus in U.S.A., 374, 481.
 Report from Arkansas, 313; Assam, 411; the Australian C.S.I.R., 221; Barbados, 157; the Belgian Congo, 122, 463; British Columbia, 354; British Honduras, 412; California, 464; Canadian Plant Disease Survey, 553; the Cawthron Institute, 116; Ceylon, 297; Cheshunt, 111; Dominica, 464; East Malling, 246; Fiji, 9; Florida, 125; the Forestry Commissioners, 591; Georgia, 65; Germany, 9; the Gold Coast, 508; Hawaii, 95; Idaho, 118; Indiana, 119, 120, 355; Kentucky, 64; Kenya, 311, 312; Louisiana, 175; Malaya, 336, 463; Maryland, 122, 466; Mauritius, 156, 541; Nevada, 466; New York, 173, 509; New Zealand, 115; Northern Ireland, 523; Pennsylvania, 175; Puerto Rico, 255; Queensland, 221, 384; Scotland, 579; Southern Rhodesia, 117; Spain, 113; Switzerland, 220, 272; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353; Texas, 313, 534; Tobago and Trinidad, 222; Uganda, 223; Washington, 511; West African Cacao Research Institute, 515.
- Resin lime-sulphur, use of, against *Peronospora antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum*, 72.
- Restitution phenomenon in plant defence, 354.
- Rhabdochline pseudotsugae* on *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* in Scotland, 505.
- Rheum*, see Rhubarb.
- Rhizobiaceae, taxonomy of, 513.
- Rhizobium*, flagellation and motility in, 225.
- Rhizoctonia* on *Amaranthus gangeticus* in Malaya, 464.
 — on beet in Malaya, 464; U.S.A., 402; pathogenicity of, 402.
 — on cabbage, control, 126, 213.
 — on *Camellia* in U.S.A., 126.
 — on cucumber and *Cyamopsis psoraloides* in Malaya, 464.
 — on flax in Eire, 235.
 — on groundnut in Malaya, 464; U.S.A., 171.
 — on lettuce, control, 126.
 — on lupin in U.S.A., 126.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 430, 572.
 — on tea, 260.
 — on tomato, control, 126.
 — *aderholdii*, *Monilopsis aderholdii* renamed, 101.
 —, — *klebahnii* regarded as a variant of, 101.
 — on violet in Argentina, 101.
 — *dimorpha* on flax in Argentina, 204.
 — *solani*, see *Corticium solani*.
- Rhizopus* in soil in U.S.A., 511.
 — on flax, 20.
 — on groundnut in S. Africa, 172; U.S.A., 61, 171; factors affecting, 8.
 — on maize, stored, in U.S.A., 17.
 — on strawberry in U.S.A., 572.
 — (?) *arrhizus* on tobacco in Southern Rhodesia, 118.
 — *atrocarpis* on jak tree in Assam, 411.
 — *stolonifer*, effect of wheat chaff extracts on, 277.
 — on food, 250.
 — on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
 — on strawberry, 250; in U.S.A., 374.
 —, toxicity of, to *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228.
 —, water loss from cultures of, 148.
- Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii* and *R. (?) pini* on spruce in Holland, 166.
- Rhododendron*, *Septoria azaleae* on, in Belgium, 463.
 — *nudiflorum* and *R. viscosum*, *Pucciniastrum myrtilli* on, in U.S.A., 45.

- Rhodotorula*, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- *glutinis*, toxicity of plant extracts to, 576.
- Rhubarb (*Rheum*), *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- mosaic virus on rhubarb in New Zealand, 116; transmission of, by aphids, 116; to *Rumex*, 116.
- Rhus coriaria*, *Cercospora rhoiscoriariae* on, in France, 498.
- Rhynchelytrum roseum* immune from maize streak virus, 351.
- Rhynchospora*, *Ustilaginales* on, taxonomy of, 46.
- Rhynchosporium secalis* on barley in Argentina, 67; Turkey, 349; breeding against, 15.
- on rye in Turkey, 349.
- Ribes*, see Currants.
- *grossularia*, see Gooseberry.
- Riboflavin, production of, by moulds, 252.
- Rice (*Oryza sativa*), *Achlya* and *Brachysporium* on, in Formosa, 446.
- , *Cercospora oryzae* on, in India, 314; varietal reaction to, 176.
- , *Cladosporium oryzae* on, in Italy, 335; *Helminthosporium maculans* synonym of, 335.
- , *Corticium sasakii* on, factors affecting, 447.
- , — *solanii* on, in Brazil, 154.
- , *Curvularia lunata* on, in India, 314.
- diseases, legislation against, in Persia, 352.
- , *Ephelis oryzae* on, in India, 379.
- , *Fusarium* on, in Formosa, 446.
- , *Gibberella fujikuroi* on, in India, 155, 314.
- , *Leptosphaeria salvinii* on, varietal reaction to, 176.
- , *Mycosphaerella danubialis* on, in Rumania, 381.
- , *Neovossia horrida* on, 468; in Assam, 411.
- , *Nigrospora oryzae* on, in Malaya, 464.
- , *Ophiobolus miyabeanus* on, in Assam, 411; India, 294, 314, 379; Italy, 335; Malaya, 463; control, 295, 411, 484; factors affecting, 294, 335; study on, 196; varietal reaction to, 294.
- , — *oryzinus* on, in U.S.A., 335.
- , *Penicillium* on, in Formosa, 446.
- , *Piricularia grisea* on, in Turkey, 350; (?) identical with *P. oryzae*, 350.
- , — *oryzae* on, in China, 255, 444; Formosa, 443; Greece, 95; India, 314, 379, 581; Italy, 335; Malaya, 463; Rumania, 381; Turkey, 350; control, 255; culture of, 582; effect of cultural solution of pathogen on, 380; factors affecting, 255, 444, 445; (?) identical with *P. grisea*, 350; physiologic races of, 582; study on, 581; varietal reaction to, 335, 443, 444, 446, 463.
- , *Pythium* on, in Formosa, 446.
- , — *arrhenomanes* on, in Brazil, 154.
- rot-disease in Formosa, 446.
- , *Sclerotium oryzae* on, in Brazil, 154.
- seed treatment, 381; with arasan and yellow cuprocide, 176.
- , *Trichoconis padwickii* on, in India, 448.
- , *Ustilaginoidea virescens* on, in Brazil, 450.
- 'white tip' in U.S.A., 176.
- 'yellows' disease in Fiji, 9.
- Ricinus communis*, *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, control, 276.
- , —, *Fusarium ricini* on, in Formosa, 450.
- , —, *Phytophthora* on, study on, 451.
- , — seed treatments, 586.
- , —, *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Formosa, 450.
- Robinia*, *Polyporus obtusus* on, in N. America, 266.
- Roesleria brasiliiana* on *Spondias lutea* in Brazil, 450.
- Rose (*Rosa*), *Botrytis cinerea* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , *Diplocarpon rosae* on, in Canada, 475; U.S.A., 324, 475; control, 288, 324; *Marssonina rosae* imperfect state of, 475.
- , *Erwinia amylovora* on, legislation against, amendment of, in Fiji, 160.
- mosaic virus in U.S.A., 324.
- , *Mycosphaerella rosigena* on, in U.S.A., 524.
- , *Phragmidium mucronatum* on, in U.S.A., 324; control, 324, 422.
- , — *speciosum* on, in U.S.A., 324.
- , *Sphaerella rosigena* var. *madagascariensis* on, in Madagascar, 81.
- , *Sphaerotheca pannosa* on, in U.S.A., 324.
- , — var. *rosae* on, control, 422.
- streak virus in U.S.A., 324.
- Rosellinia arcuata* on tea, 260; in Ceylon, 297.
- *bothrina* on tea in Ceylon, 297.
- *bunodes* on coffee in Peru, 542; Puerto Rico, 471.
- *necatrix* on *Pittosporum crassifolium* in England, 462.
- on vine in Italy, 508.
- Rotenone emulsion, use of, as a spreader, 422.
- Royal palm (*Roystonea regia*), *Xanthomonas vasculorum* on, in Mauritius, 234; variation in, 234.
- Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*), *Alternaria* on, in Mexico, 92.
- , *Armillaria mellea* on, in the Belgian Congo, 123, 382.
- brown bast in Ceylon, 382, 541; Malaya, 336.
- , *Ceratostomella fimbriata* on, in Malaya, control, 336.
- , *Corticium salmonicolor* on, in Malaya, 336; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , *Dothidea ulei* on, in Mexico, 381; Venezuela, 41.
- , *Fomes lignosus* on, in the Belgian Congo, 382; Ceylon, 540.
- , — *noxius* and *Ganoderma pseudoferreum* on, in the Belgian Congo, 382.
- , *Oidium heveae* on, in Ceylon, 382, 449, 541, 582; Malaya, 582; Tanganyika Territory, 158; control, 449, 582; factors affecting, 582; varietal reaction to, 541, 583.
- , physiological diseases of, in Malaya, 336.
- , *Phytophthora meadii* on, in Ceylon, 541, 583.
- , — *palmivora* on, in Ceylon, 382, 541, 583; India, 159; factors affecting, 541; oospore formation in, 159; varietal reaction to, 541.
- spearhead die-back in Malaya, 336.
- , prepared, *Cladosporium herbarum* on, 250.
- , —, effect of fungicides on, 41.
- Rubus idaeus* and *R. occidentalis*, see Raspberry.
- *procerus*, *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, anatomical study on, 67.
- *ursinus* var. *loganobaccus*, see Boysenberry.
- Rudbeckia hirta*, *Entyloma davisii* on, in U.S.A., 101.
- *laciniata*, *Entyloma compositarum* on, in U.S.A., 101.
- Rumex*, rhubarb mosaic virus can infect, 116.
- Rusts, see Uredinales.
- Rutabaga, see Swede.
- Rutaceae, *Xanthomonas citri* on, legislation against, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S.A., 352.
- Rutstroemia* in Denmark, 498.
- Rye (*Secale cereale*), *Calonectria graminicola* on, in Sweden, 416.

- [Rye], *Claviceps purpurea* on, in Canada, 314; Great Britain, 127; Italy, 67; U.S.A., 558; U.S.S.R., 11, 226; factors affecting, 314; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 226.
- , *Helminthosporium sativum* on, in England, 462; Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , maize streak virus on, resistance to, 351.
- , manganese deficiency in, in Denmark, 410.
- , *Ophiobolus graminis* on, 559.
- , *Puccinia glumarum* on, in Bulgaria, 376; Turkey, 114.
- , *Rhynchosporium secalis* on, in Turkey, 349.
- , *Sclerotinia borealis* on, in Sweden, 416.
- , (?) — *graminearum* on, in U.S.S.R., 227.
- , *Scoleotrichum graminis* on, in Argentina, 257.
- , *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida* on, in Argentina, 560.
- , *Typhula borealis* on, in Sweden, 416.
- , *Urocystis occulta* on, 468.
- , — *secalis* on, in U.S.S.R., 11; (?) a race of *U. occulta*, 11.
- Saccharomyces*, classification of, 47.
- on flax and hemp fibres, 379.
- on honey and maple syrup, 251.
- *carlsbergensis*, effect of trichothecin on, 437.
- and *S. cerevisiae*, taxonomy of, 47.
- *ellipsoideus*, use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 287.
- *pastorianus* in beer, 250.
- Saccharum officinarum*, see Sugar-cane.
- Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*), *Alternaria cichorii* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Ascochyta carthami* and *Erysiphe cichoracearum* f. *carthami* on, in France, 383.
- , *Macrosporium carthami* on, 549.
- , *Ovularia carthami* on, in France, 384.
- , *Puccinia carthami* on, in France, 383, 541; overwintering of, 541.
- , *Ramularia carthamicola* and *Septoria carthamicola* on, in France, 383.
- Salicylanilide, effect of, on prepared and synthetic rubber, 41.
- , use of, against moulds on vegetable fibre gaskets, 436.
- Salicylic aldehyde, use of, with mercuric chloride, against *Tilletia caries* and *T. foetida*, 484.
- Salix*, *Hymenochaete agglutinans* and *Melampsora arctica* on, in U.S.A., 207.
- , *Trametes suaveolens* on, in U.S.A., 503.
- Salpiglossis*, *Phytophthora infestans* can infect, 36.
- Salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*), *Cystopus tragopogi* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Salsola kali* var. *tenuifolia*, beet mosaic virus can infect, 345.
- Sandalwood (*Santalum album*), spike disease of, study on, 585.
- Santobrite, use of, against timber sap stain, 167.
- Saponaria officinalis*, *Alternaria dianthi* on, in Turkey, 351.
- , *Ustilago violacea* on, in Rumania, 448.
- Saprolegnia*, conservation of cultures of, 329.
- Satureia*, *Botrytis cinerea* on, in England, 111.
- Scale insects, *Aschersonia turbinata* on, in Brazil, 450.
- , *Podonectria coccicola* on, in Peru, 542; *Tetracium coccicola* imperfect state of, 542.
- Schizophyllum commune* on apple in France, 241.
- on apricot in Hungary, 140.
- on ash, horse-chestnut, lime tree, peach, and pear in France, 241.
- Scilla*, *Sclerotium delphinii* on, in U.S.A., 2388.
- *sibirica*, *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 1.
- Scirpus lacustris*, *Myriosclerotinia scirpicola* on, in Denmark, 498.
- Sclerophomaceae, taxonomy of, 339.
- Sclerospora graminicola* on maize in Fiji, 9.
- *macrospora* on wheat in U.S.A., 13.
- *maydis* on maize in Central Africa, 376.
- *sacchari* on maize in Fiji, 98.
- on sugar-cane in Fiji, 9, 98; Queensland, 384, 496; control, 98; legislation against, Queensland, 496; losses caused by, 98; varietal reaction to, 98.
- Sclerotinia* in Denmark, 498.
- on lupin in U.S.A., 126.
- *borealis* on cereals in Sweden, 416, 518.
- on grasses in Sweden, 518.
- on rye in Sweden, 416.
- *camelliae*, factors affecting growth of, 440.
- *fructicola* on apple, 368, 369; production of enzymes by, 369.
- on cherry in New S. Wales, 27; U.S.S.R., 244, 510.
- on peach in Peru, 327; U.S.A., 139, 1510, 532, 569, 573; control, 139, 173, 327, 532, 569, 573; varietal reaction to, 139.
- on stone fruits in New S. Wales, 246.
- , toxicity of plant extracts to, 576; of petroleum glycol aerosol to, 249.
- , use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 367.
- , water loss from cultures of, 148.
- *fructigena*, control, 484.
- on apple in England, 371.
- on *Corylus avellana* in England, 266; *Balanus nigrinus nucum* in relation to, 266.
- on plum in England, 371.
- , toxicity of musarin to, 483.
- (?) — *fuckeliana* on *Abies*, citrus, larch, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* in U.S.A., 503.
- *gladioli* on *Freesia* in Denmark, 498.
- on *Gladiolus* in Denmark, 498; U.S.S.R., 476, 512, 567; control, 476, 512.
- (?) — *graminearum* on rye and wheat in U.S.S.R., 227.
- *laxa* on apple in England, 371.
- on apricot in France, 429.
- on cherry in France, 429; varietal reaction to, 76.
- on peach in France, 429.
- on plum in England, 371; France, 429.
- , water loss from cultures of, 148.
- *narcissicola* on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
- *nipponica* on apple, 368.
- *polyblastis* on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
- (?) — *porri* on garlic in England, 170.
- *sativa*, 527.
- *sclerotiorum*, host range of, in Denmark, 423.
- in soil, control, 305.
- on carrot in Denmark, 498; U.S.S.R., 423.
- on chicory, thermal death point of, 20.
- on flax in Eire, 236.
- on *Forsythia viridissima* in U.S.A., 2388.
- on lettuce in Rumania, 274.
- on *Matthiola incana* in New S. Wales, 2388.
- on soy-bean in Argentina, 257.
- on sunflower in Denmark, 498; Rumania, 423.
- , toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 357.
- , water loss from cultures of, 148.
- *seaveri* on cherry and *Prunus serotina* in U.S.A., 244.
- *trifoliorum* can infect pea, 283.
- on *Anthemis arvensis* in Denmark, 368.

- Sclerotinia trifoliorum*] on *Anthyllis* in Switzerland, 480.
- on *Cirsium arvense* in Denmark, 365.
- on clover in Denmark, 498; Switzerland, 220, 479; control, 283; geographical distribution of, 283.
- on Leguminosae in Denmark, 498.
- on *Lotus* in Switzerland, 480.
- on lucerne, 283; in Denmark, 365; Switzerland, 480; host range of, 365; resistance to, 480.
- on *Matricaria inodora* in Denmark, 365.
- on *Medicago lupulina* in Switzerland, 480; control, 283.
- on *Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*, and *Myosotis arvensis* in Denmark, 365.
- on *Onobrychis sativa*, control, 283.
- on *Plantago lanceolata*, *P. major*, and *Ranunculus repens* in Denmark, 365.
- on *Sonchus arvensis*, control, 283.
- on *Taraxacum* in Denmark, 365.
- on vetch, control, 283.
- var. *fabae* on broad bean, 283.
- *vaccinii-corymbosi* synonym of *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*, 30.
- Sclerotiniaceae in Denmark, 497.
- Sclerotium* on cereals in Morocco, 557.
- *cepivorum* can infect leek, 135.
- on *Allium*, culture of, 134.
- on garlic in U.S.A., 549.
- on onion in U.S.A., 549; culture of, 134.
- on shallot, 135; in U.S.A., 7, 549.
- , production of pectinase by, 135.
- *delphinii* on *Iris* in U.S.A., 512.
- on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
- on *Scilla* in U.S.A., 238.
- *oryzae* on rice in Brazil, 154.
- *rolfsii*, host range of, in New S. Wales, 47.
- on barley in U.S.A., 179.
- on bean in U.S.A., 65.
- on *Brachychiton populneum* in Argentina, 204.
- on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
- on groundnut in S. Africa, 171; U.S.A., 66, 171; factors affecting, 8.
- on lupin in U.S.A., 125, 126.
- on *Narcissus* in U.S.A., 134.
- on oats in Madagascar, 80.
- on *Phlox* in Argentina, 204.
- on *Piper betle* in India, 94.
- on sorghum in Ceylon, 555.
- on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7, 66.
- on sugar-cane in Queensland, 385.
- , toxicity of patulin to, 83.
- *salicinum* on plum in Rumania, 387.
- *tuliparum*, host range of, 134.
- on tulip, culture of, 134.
- , production of pectinase by, 135.
- Seclotrichum graminis* on rye and wheat in Argentina, 257.
- Scolytus multistriatus* transmitting *Ceratostomella ulmi*, 64, 301.
- Seopletin, isolation of, from potatoes infected with leaf roll virus, 492.
- Seopularia halepensis* on pine in Italy, 104.
- Scorzonera hispanica*, *Cystopus tragopogi* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Secale cereale*, see Rye.
- Sechium edule*, *Colletotrichum lagenarium* on, in Brazil, 215.
- Seed-borne diseases, 127, 456.
- disinfection apparatus, 328.
- treatments, recent developments in, 434.
- Seedox, use of, against *Glomerella gossypii* on cotton, 523.
- Selenophoma*, *Lunospora* identical with, 100.
- , taxonomy of, 324.
- *bromigena*, *Lunospora bromigena* referred to, 324.
- *donacis* on *Phragmites communis*, synonymy of, 324.
- var. *stomaticola*, synonymy of, 324.
- Semesan, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 588; damping-off of cucumber, 109; *Sclerotium cepivorum* on shallot, 7, 549; as a seed treatment for Brussels sprouts, 54; cabbage, 54; crucifers, 343; cucumber, 54; pea, 54; spinach, 53; vegetables, 53.
- bel, use of, against *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *batalas* on sweet potato, 466; *F. caeruleum* on potato, 175; *F. oxysporum* f. 2 on sweet potato, 466; *F. sambucinum* f. 6 on potato, 175.
- jr. injury to maize, 278.
- , use of, as a seed treatment for maize, 120, 278, 356, 469.
- Senecio cruentus*, see Cineraria.
- Sepedonium* on paper, control, 254.
- Septobasidium* and *S. bogoriense* on tea, 260.
- Septogloeum mori* on mulberry in Turkey, 349.
- Septoria* on ornamental plants, control, 422.
- *albopunctata* on *Vaccinium* in U.S.A., 28.
- *apii* on celery in Great Britain, 127; New Zealand, 116; Switzerland, 273; Turkey, 349; control, 59, 116, 273; incidence of infection in, 127.
- *graveolentis* on celery, 59.
- *avenae* on oats in Argentina, 257.
- f. sp. *triticea* imperfect state of *Leptosphaeria avenaria* f. sp. *triticea*, 230.
- *azaleae* on *Rhododendron* in Belgium, 463.
- *caraganae* on *Caragana arborescens* in Rumania, 387.
- *carthamicola* on safflower in France, 383.
- *cercidis* on *Cercis siliquastrum* in Argentina, 186.
- *chrysanthemella* on *Chrysanthemum* in New S. Wales, 136.
- *chrysanthemi-indici* on *Chrysanthemum* in Spain, 387.
- *cornina* on *Cornus sanguinea* in France, 498.
- *curva* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis*, 324.
- *difformis* on *Vaccinium*, apparently identical with *Ramularia vaccinii*, 30.
- *gaillardiae* on *Gaillardia pulchella* in Argentina, 186.
- on *Gaillardia pulchella* var. *picta* in U.S.A., 498.
- *gerberae* on *Gerbera* in Fiji, 9.
- *glycericola* on *Glyceria* in U.S.A., 528.
- *lactucae* on lettuce in Queensland, 399; Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *leucanthemi* on *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* in Argentina, 186.
- *linicola* on flax in Canada, 554.
- *lycopersici* on tomato in Madagascar, 81; U.S.A., 49; breeding against, 119, 120; control, 49; genetics of, 120.
- *nodorum* on wheat in Argentina, 413.
- referred to *Hendersonia nodorum*, 100.
- *orobina* on *Onobrychis sativa* in England, 462.
- *oxyspora* synonym of *Selenophoma donacis*, 324.
- *passerinii* on *Hordeum distichon*, *H. nodosum*, and *Hystrix patula* in U.S.A., 528.
- *petroselini* on parsley in Turkey, 349.
- *pisi* on pea, control, 591.
- *quinqueseptata* on *Koeleria cristata* in U.S.A., 528.

- [*Septoria*] *tritici* on wheat in Argentina, 413; Turkey, 349; U.S.A., 13; culture of, 349.
- *violae* on *Viola betonicifolia* in Ceylon, 197.
- Sequoia sempervirens*, *Coryneum* on, in U.S.A., 545.
- Serology, application of, to plant pathology, 82.
- Serratia marcescens*, cultures referred to *Erwinia lathyri*, from England, closely related to, 514.
- Setaria geniculata*, *Claviceps purpurea* on, in Brazil, 122.
- *italica*, *Colletotrichum graminicola* can infect, 526.
- —, *Piricularia oryzae* on, in India, 581; culture of, 582; *Piricularia setariae* synonym of, 581.
- —, *Ustilago crameri* on, in Ceylon, 555.
- Shallot (*Allium ascalonicum*), onion yellow dwarf virus on, in Scotland, 58; transmission of, by aphids, 58.
- , *Peronospora destructor* on, in U.S.A., 176.
- , *Sclerotium cepivorum* on, 135; in U.S.A., 7, 549.
- yellow dwarf virus on shallot in U.S.A., 176.
- Shirlan AG, toxicity of, to *Didymella lycopersici*, 112.
- WS, use of, against *Peronospora parasitica* on cabbage, 223.
- Sida spinosa*, *Verticillium dahliae* on, in S. Africa, 473.
- Silene dichotoma*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* can infect, 365.
- Sinox, use of, against *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 88.
- , use of, for killing potato haulms, 493, 581.
- Smilax*, *Cercospora smilacis* on, in France, 498.
- Smutol, see Copper oxychloride.
- Smuts, see Ustilaginales.
- Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*), *Sclerotium tuliparum* can infect, 135.
- Sodium arsenite, use of, for killing potato haulms, 581; rubber trees, 540.
- bicarbonate, use of, with bleaching powder against *Gloeodes pomigena* on orange, 522.
- borofluoride, use of, against moulds on leather, 252.
- carbonate, use of, against *Helminthosporium gramineum* and *Ustilago nuda* on barley and *U. tritici* on wheat, 13.
- chlorate, use of, for destroying potato haulms, 150.
- chloride in relation to peach and plum 'suffocation', 244.
- hydroxide, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis* and *V. pirina*, 529.
- hypochlorite, use of, against *Penicillium digitatum* on orange, 523.
- molybdate, use of, against cauliflower 'whip-tail' disease, 400; molybdenum deficiency in oats, 17.
- orthophosphate-copper sulphate spray, use of, against *Bremia lactucae*, 108.
- pentachlorophenate, use of, against mould on vegetable fibre gaskets, 436; as a timber preservative, 546.
- silicofluoride, use of, against moulds on leather, 252; as a timber preservative, 52.
- sulphadiazine and sodium sulphamerazine, use of, against peach X-disease virus, 532.
- thiosulphate, use of, against manganese deficiency in beet, oats, and peas, 583-4.
- Soil, *Actinomyces* in, in U.S.A., 297; antagonism of, to *Pythium* spp., 297.
- , *Actinomycetes* in, in Canada, 41; Italy, 94; New Guinea and U.S.A., 41; toxicity of, to *Azotobacter vinelandii*, 41.
- [Soil], *Aspergillus* in, in U.S.A., 511.
- , *Basidiobolus haptosporus* in, in U.S.A., 159.
- , *Dictyostelium giganteum* and *D. mucoroides* in, destruction of bacteria by, 154.
- disinfection against damping-off, 305; *Myrioceliophthora lutea* on mushroom, 215; *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, 305; *Sclerotium rolfsii*, 125; *Verticillium dahliae*, 136.
- — with calcium cyanamide and ceresan, 125; chloropicrin, 126; dowlfume G, 305; formaldehyde, 136; isobrome and methyl bromide, 305; uramon, 125.
- fertility, microbiological method of estimating, 93.
- fungi, technique for determining growth of, 123.
- , *Fusarium* in, 467; in U.S.A., 511, 519; control, 305.
- , *Helminthosporium sativum*, *Mucor*, and *Ophiobolus* in, 467.
- organisms and disease, paper on, 41.
- , *Penicillium* in, 467; in U.S.A., 511.
- , *Pyrenochaeta* in, in U.S.A., 519.
- , *Rhizopus* in, in U.S.A., 511.
- sickness in sand media, 93.
- sterilization against *Xanthomonas vesicatoria*, 391.
- — by steam, 255; against *Peronospora tabacina* on tobacco, 275; tobacco mosaic virus, 587; tomato 'hard core', 117.
- structure, stabilization of, influence of microbial groups on, 383.
- , *Trichoderma* in, in U.S.A., 511.
- Soja, see Soy-bean.
- Solanum*, *Alternaria solani* on, in New S. Wales, 588.
- *andigenum*, *S. antipovicii*, and *S. caldasii*, resistance of, to *Phytophthora infestans* and *Xanthomonas solanacearum*, 35.
- *chacoense*, resistance of, to *Xanthomonas solanacearum*, 35.
- *demissum*, resistance of, to *Phytophthora infestans* and *Xanthomonas solanacearum*, 35.
- *dulcamara*, *Phytophthora infestans* can infect, 36.
- *melongena*, see Eggplant.
- *nigrum*, broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , *Cladosporium fulvum* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , *Phytophthora infestans* can infect, 36.
- , *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- , *Stemphylium consortiale* can infect, 40.
- , tobacco mosaic virus can infect, 587.
- , tomato 'smalling disease' can infect, 204.
- *tuberosum*, see Potato.
- Solidago caesia*, *S. hispida*, *S. neglecta*, and *S. odora*, *Colosporium solidaginis* on, in U.S.A., 45.
- Soltosan, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato, 588; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 442.
- Sonchus arvensis*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, control, 283.
- *oleraceus*, *Bremia lactucae* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- —, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* can infect, 365.
- Sorbus domestica*, *Fusicladium orbiculatum* on, in Argentina, 257; synonymy of, 257.
- , *Gymnosporangium juniperi* on, in France, 258.
- Sordaria fimicola*, respiration of, under mineral oil, 329.

- Sorghum* (*Sorghum vulgare*), *Cerebella volkensii* on, in S. Africa, 351.
- , *Claviceps* on, in India, 561.
- , *Colletotrichum graminicola* on, in India, 315.
- , *Corticium solani* on, 187.
- , *Curvularia lunata* on, in India, 315.
- , diseases, legislation against, in Iran, 352.
- , *Helminthosporium turcicum* on, in India, 315.
- , *Puccinia* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Ramularia sorghi* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 159.
- , *Ramulispora sorghi* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in Ceylon, 555.
- , *Sphacelotheca cruenta* and *S. reitiana* on, 468.
- , — *sorghi* on, 468; in India, 18, 315; Queensland, 18; Turkey, 115; Uganda, 223; U.S.A., 361; control, 18, 19, 361; effect of, on yield, 315; varietal reaction to, 18, 223.
- , *Titaeospora andropogonis* on, in India, 315; Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- Sorghum saccharatum*, bacterial disease of, and *Helminthosporium turcicum* on, in Queensland, 19.
- *sudanense*, see Sudan grass.
- *vulgare*, see *Sorghum*.
- Soy-bean (*Glycine max*), *Actinomyces scabies* can infect, 294.
- , *Alternaria* on, in U.S.A., (?) 7, 459.
- , (?) arsenic injury to, in U.S.A., 7.
- , *Ascochyta phaseolorum* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *Cephalosporium* on, in U.S.A., 107; culture of, 107.
- , — *acremonium* on, in U.S.A., 213.
- , *Cercospora sojae* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , *Coniothyrium sojae* on, in Madagascar, 80.
- , damping-off of, control, 53.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 7, 55.
- , diseases, research on, in U.S.A., 212.
- , *Glomerella glycines* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , *Helminthosporium vignae* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Macrophomina phaseoli* on, in U.S.A., 7, 66.
- , manganese deficiency in, in U.S.A., 507.
- , *Microsphaera* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , mosaic in U.S.A., 7.
- , *Myrothecium roridum* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264.
- , *Peronospora manshurica* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , *Phyllosticta glycineum* on, in U.S.A., 459.
- , — *phaseolina* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , *Pseudomonas glycines* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , — *tabacum* on, in U.S.A., 7, 10.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Argentina, 257.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in U.S.A., 7, 66.
- , seed treatment in U.S.A., 403.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, susceptibility to, 125.
- , tobacco ring spot virus and unknown virus disease on, in U.S.A., 7.
- , wilt in Fiji, 9.
- , *Xanthomonas phaseoli* var. *sojense* on, in U.S.A., 7.
- Spargon, effect of, on lily bulbs, 512.
- , technique for determination of, on treated seed, 505.
- , use of, against *Ascochyta pinodella* and *Corticium solani* on pea, 4; damping-off of beet, 2; cucumber, 109; *Fusarium* on coco-nut, 320; *F. bulbigenum* var. *balatas* and *F. oxysporum* f. 2 on sweet potato, 466; *F. solani* f. *pisi* on pea, 5; maize seedling diseases, 120; pea root rots, 169; *Penicillium* on hyacinth, iris, and tulip, 282; *Phytophthora palmivora* on *Dieffenbachia picta*, 238; *Pythium* on pea, 4; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361; as a seed treatment for bean, 54; beet, 1; cucumber, 176; flax, 20, 134, 421; groundnut, 66; hemp, 421; *Hibiscus esculentus*, 347; maize, 278, 356, 469; pea, 4, 54, 213, 403; *Phaseolus lunatus*, 54; rose, 381; soy-bean, 403; spinach, 54; squash, 176; tomato, 54; vegetables, 53.
- [Spargon], wettable, use of, against *Peronospora parasitica* on cabbage, 167.
- Spergularia marginata*, *Cystopus lepigoni* on, in Rumania, 543.
- Spermospora subulata* on *Melica bulbosa*, *M. subulata*, *Deschampsia caespitosa*, and *Festuca rubra* in U.S.A., 527; *Cercospora subulata* renamed, 527.
- Spersul, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 428.
- Sphaceloma*, geographical distribution of, 32.
- in India, 100.
- *menthae* on *Mentha arvensis piperascens*, *M. crispa*, *M. spicata*, and peppermint, breeding against, 120.
- Sphacelotheca andropogonis* on *Andropogon hirtus* in Madeira, 586.
- *cruenta* on sorghum, 468.
- *destruens* on *Panicum miliaceum* in England, 462; Turkey, 115.
- *reitiana* on maize, 468; in New Zealand, 116.
- — on sorghum, 468.
- *sorghi* on sorghum, 468; in India, 18, 315; Queensland, 18; Turkey, 115; Uganda, 223; U.S.A., 361; control, 18, 19, 361; effect of, on yield, 315; varietal reaction to, 18, 223.
- Sphaerella linorum* on flax in Argentina, 67, 257, 412; Tanganyika Territory, 224; Uruguay, 133; Victoria, imported from Canada, 322; effect of, on yield, 323; factors affecting, 412; varietal reaction to, 133, 185, 322.
- *rosigena* var. *madagascariensis* on rose in Madagascar, 81.
- Sphaeronema bustinzae* a form of *Stagonospora meliloti*, 100.
- *pruinorum* on apple in England, 79.
- Sphaeropsis ellisii* var. *cromogena* a form of *Macrophoma pinea*, 100.
- *malorum* imperfect state of *Physalospora obtusa*, 425.
- *tumefaciens* on orange in the Cameroons, 564; geographical distribution of, 564.
- *ulmicola* on elm in U.S.A., 503.
- Sphaerostilbe repens* on tea, 260.
- Sphaerotheca fuliginea* on *Doronicum* in England, 78.
- *humuli* on hops in U.S.A., 174; varietal reaction to, 296.
- — on strawberry in U.S.A., 430; breeding against, 28; varietal reaction to, 28, 373.
- *mors-uvae* on currants in Switzerland, 158.
- — on gooseberry in Rumania, 274.
- *pannosa* on rose in U.S.A., 324.
- — var. *rosae* on rose, control, 422.
- *voandzeiae*, *Cicinobolus cesatii* on, in Madagascar, 80.
- — on *Voandzeia subterranea* in Madagascar, 80.
- Sphenostylis schweinfurthii*, *Parodiella paraguayensis* f. *macrospora* on, in the Cameroons, 197.
- Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), beet mosaic virus on, 270.
- , beet yellows virus can infect, 211.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.

- [Spinach], *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 344, 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , damping-off of, control, 53.
- , extracts, inhibition of plant viruses by, 58.
- , *Fusarium oxysporum* f. *spinaciae* on, in U.S.A., 59.
- , *Heterosporium variabile* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Phytophthora megasperma* on, in U.S.A., 10.
- , *Pythium ultimum* on, in U.S.A., 344.
- , yellow dwarf virus on spinach in U.S.A., 345; transmission of, by *Myzus persicae*, 345.
- Spondias lutea*, *Roesleria brasiliensis* on, in Brazil, 450.
- *mangifera*, *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- Spondylocadium atrovirens* on potato in Turkey, 350.
- Spongospora subterranea* on potato in Denmark, 411; Greece, 95; Italy, 539; breeding against, 579; control, 539; mode of infection in, 151.
- Sporodesmium pluriseptatum* on cucumber in Rumania, 400.
- Sporotrichum* on optical glass, control, 145.
- *carnis* on frozen meat, 250.
- *schencki*, viability of, 534.
- Spraying apparatus, 121, 173, 175, 433, 435, 511, 529, 574.
- — for inoculating agar plates, 250.
- — wheel injury to potato in U.S.A., 540.
- of liquids from aircraft, 328.
- Sprays, surface active agents in, 433.
- Spruce (*Picea*), *Ascochyta piniperda* on, in Belgium, 463.
- , *Chrysomyxa ledi* on, in Siberia, 301.
- , *Crumenula abietina* on, in Belgium, 396.
- , *Cytospora kunzei* on, in U.S.A., 503.
- , *Fomes nigrolimitatus*, *F. officinalis*, and *F. pini* on, in U.S.A., 547.
- , — *pinicola* on, in U.S.A., 105, 547.
- , *Ganoderma applanatum* and *Lentinus kauffmanii* on, in U.S.A., 547.
- , *Nectria cucurbitula* on, in Scotland, 501.
- , *Phoma* on, in Holland, 166.
- , *Polyporus amorphus* on, in U.S.A., 167.
- , — *borealis*, *P. picipes*, *P. schweinitzii*, *P. sulphureus*, and *Poria subacida* on, in U.S.A., 547.
- , *Pucciniastrum padi* on, in Norway, 206.
- , *Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii* and *R. (?) pini* on, in Holland, 166.
- , *Trametes serialis* on, in U.S.A., 547.
- , *Valsa kunzei* on, in U.S.A., 501; *Cytospora kunzei* imperfect state of, 501.
- , virus disease of, in Czechoslovakia, 503.
- Squash (*Cucurbita*), cucumber mosaic virus on, varietal reaction to, 116.
- , *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, control, 343.
- , *Hypomyces solani* f. *cucurbitae* on, in U.S.A., 307.
- , muskmelon mosaic virus can infect, 271.
- , *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on, control, 343.
- , *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- , *Sclerotium rolfii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- seed treatment with arasan and spergon, 176.
- , see also Vegetable marrow.
- Stachybotrys*, antibiotics from, 83.
- *atra*, antibiotics from, 83.
- —, effect of sawdust extracts on, 576.
- —, nutrition of, 291.
- — on cotton textiles in New Guinea, 487.
- — on optical glass, control, 145.
- —, use of, as a test organism in rot-proofing textiles, 84, 116, 438.
- Stachylidium theobromae* on banana in Brazil, 100; Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- Stagonospora curtisii* on *Hippeastrum vittatum* in New S. Wales, 275.
- — on *Narcissus* in New S. Wales, 524; U.S.A., 134.
- — on *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus* in New S. Wales, 275.
- *meliloti* on clover in U.S.A., 498; *Sphaeronema bustinae* a form of, 100.
- —, *Stagonosporopsis trifolii* identical with, 100.
- Staphylococcus aureus*, toxicity of Basidiomycetes to, 252, 438.
- Stellaria media*, beet mosaic virus on, 270.
- Stemphylium*, differentiation between *Alternaria* and, 46.
- on aster in U.S.A., 567.
- on citrus in U.S.A., 562.
- on *Gladiolus* in U.S.A., 566.
- , toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
- *botryosum*, viability of, 534.
- *consortiale* on potato in British Columbia, 40; transmission of, to *Datura stramonium*, *Nicotiana glauca*, *Solanum nigrum*, tobacco, and tomato, 40.
- *cucurbitacearum* on cucumber, re-examination of co-type material of, 405.
- *sarciniiforme*, control, 288, 484.
- — on clover in Turkey, 351; geographical distribution of, 96.
- — on *Ononis natrix* in Turkey, 351.
- —, use of, as a test organism in evaluating fungicides, 32.
- *solani* on tomato in U.S.A., 341.
- Stephanoderes hampei*, *Beauveria bassiana* on, in Brazil, 100.
- Stereum hirsutum* on alder in U.S.A., 207.
- *purpureum* on apple and apricot in Hungary, 140.
- — on currants, 189.
- — on peach in Holland, 245; Hungary, 140.
- — on plum, 188; in Holland, 245; Hungary, 140; physiology of, 490.
- — on tree stumps in Holland, 75.
- Stock, see *Matthiola incana*.
- Stomopeltis citri* on orange in S. Africa, 522.
- Storage disorders of apple, 115, 368, 369, 411, 568; beet, 550; maize, 17, 120, 417; pear, 326; pineapple, 411; potato, 119, 335, 411, 536, 537, 579; sweet potato, 250; wheat, 146, 147, 417.
- Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), *Alternaria* and *Aspergillus* on, in U.S.A., 572.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, 250; in U.S.A., 374, 430.
- 'cat-facing' disease in U.S.A., 430.
- certification in Canada, 354.
- , *Chaetomium*, *Cladosporium*, and *Coniothyrium* on, in U.S.A., 572.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 374.
- crinkle virus on strawberry in Great Britain, 140; U.S.A., 430.
- 'degeneration' in Great Britain, 140, 246.
- , *Dendrophoma obscurans* on, in U.S.A., 430.
- , *Diplocarpon earliana* on, in U.S.A., 430; breeding against, 28; control, 354; varietal reaction to, 28, 176.
- diseases, 285.
- 'dud' disease in U.S.A., 430.
- , *Fusarium* on, in U.S.A., 572.
- June yellows disease in U.S.A., 430.
- , manganese deficiency and excess in, resistance to, 337.
- mild crinkle virus in Great Britain, 140.
- , *Mucor* and *Mycogone* on, in U.S.A., 572.

- [Strawberry], *Mycosphaerella fragariae* on, in Brazil, 100; Madagascar, 81; U.S.A., 430; breeding against, 28; control, 354; *Ramularia tulasnei* imperfect state of, 100; varietal reaction to, 28, 176.
- , *Oothecium, Penicillium, Pestalotia*, and *Phoma* on, in U.S.A., 572.
- , physiological exhaustion as a factor in winter killing of, 372.
- , *Phytophthora cactorum* on, in U.S.A., 374.
- , *fragariae* on, in U.S.A., 65, 430, 511, 572; breeding against, 28; control, 354; factors affecting, 511; varietal reaction to, 28, 122, 373.
- , *Ramularia* on, in U.S.A., 572.
- , *Rhizoctonia* on, in U.S.A., 430, 572.
- , *Rhizopus* on, in U.S.A., 572.
- , *stolonifer* on, 250; in U.S.A., 374.
- , *Sphaerotheca humuli* on, in U.S.A., 430; varietal reaction to, 28, 373.
- , *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, varietal reaction to, 373.
- virus 1 and 2, 571.
- diseases in Great Britain, 140; breeding against, 28; control, 354; transmission of, by *Capitophorus fragariae*, 140; varietal reaction to, 28.
- yellow edge virus on strawberry in Great Britain, 140; U.S.A., 430, 511; varietal reaction to, 373, 511.
- plant disease, breeding against, 28.
- Streptomyces*, antibiotics from, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on tomato and *Venturia inaequalis* on apple, 284.
- in soil, 535.
- , production of chloromycetin by, 146, 535.
- , 105, toxicity of, to phytopathogenic bacteria, 356.
- *griseus*, antagonism of, to tobacco necrosis virus, 451.
- , production of streptomycin by, 203, 253, 488.
- Streptomycin, effect of, on *Bacterium tumefaciens*, 276, 556; on plant tumours, 556; on soil organisms, 41.
- , production of, by *Streptomyces griseus*, 203, 253, 488.
- , technique for production of, by surface culture of *Streptomyces griseus*, 253.
- , toxicity of, to *Cercospora nicotianae*, 203; plant plasma, 488.
- Streptothricin, production of, by *Actinomyces lavendulae*, 203.
- , toxicity of, to *Cercospora nicotianae*, 203.
- Strumella coryneoides* on oak in U.S.A., 502.
- Struthiopteris germanica*, mycorrhiza of, in Poland, 535.
- Stylopaga rhinacra* on amoebae, 420.
- Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense*), immunity of, to maize streak virus, 351.
- , *Pseudomonas holci* on, in Rumania, 479.
- Sugar beet, see Beet.
- Sugar-cane (*Saccharum officinarum*), *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on, in Mauritius, 44, 156, 386, 542; Queensland, 385; S. Africa, 157; control, 45, 156, 157, 385, 386, 542; factors affecting, 44; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 45, 386, 542.
- chlorotic streak in Fiji, 98; Hawaii, 495; Mauritius, 44, 157, 386, 542; New Britain, 385; Queensland, 384; control, 45; factors affecting, 98; varietal reaction to, 45, 96, 98, 542.
- , *Cochliobolus stenospilus* on, in Hawaii, 495; varietal reaction to, 96.
- [Sugar-cane] diseases in Mauritius, control, 156.
- dwarf disease in Queensland, 385.
- Fiji disease in Fiji, 95, 97; New Britain, 97; Queensland, 384, 495; Samoa, 95, 97, 494; the Solomon Islands, 97; control, 97; factors affecting, 97; legislation against (proposed) in Hawaii, 97; in Queensland, 496; transmission of, by *Perkinsiella saccharicida* and *P. vitiensis*, 97; varietal reaction to, 97, 494, 496.
- , *Gibberella fujikuroi* on, in Argentina, 44.
- , — var. *subglutinans* on, in Java, 256; *Fusarium moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* imperfect state of, 256.
- , *Helminthosporium sacchari* on, in Fiji, 98; Hawaii, 495; varietal reaction to, 96.
- 'lagging' in Java, 256.
- mosaic virus in Barbados, 157; Mauritius, 542; Queensland, 385; U.S.A., 98; control, 99; factors affecting, 157; technique for transmission of, 157; varietal reaction to, 96, 98, 495, 542.
- , *Physalospora tucumanensis* on, in Japan, 256; Mauritius, 44, 157, 386; Queensland, 385; S. Africa, 157; Tanganyika Territory, 224; U.S.A., 98, 495; control, 45, 99; strains of, 256; varietal reaction to, 98, 157, 495, 541.
- , *Pleocyta sacchari* on, in Queensland, 385.
- , *Pythium* and *P. dissotocum* on, antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 297.
- , (?) — *graminicola* on, varietal reaction to, 96.
- , — *peritum* on, antagonism of *Actinomyces* to, 297.
- , *Sclerospora sacchari* on, in Fiji, 9, 98; Queensland, 384, 496; control, 98; legislation against, in Queensland, 496; losses caused by, 98; varietal reaction to, 98.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in Queensland, 385.
- , *Ustilago scitaminea* on, in Argentina, 99; Mauritius, 542; Portuguese E. Africa, 157, 337; Rhodesia, 157; S. Africa, 337; Southern Rhodesia, 118, 338; control, 337; factors affecting, 337; varietal reaction to, 99, 118, 157, 337, 542.
- , *Xanthomonas albilineans* on, in Hawaii, 495; Queensland, 384, 497; varietal reaction to, 96, 497.
- , — *rubrilineans* on, in Queensland, 385.
- , — *vasculorum* on, 234; in Queensland, 384; varietal reaction to, 96.
- Sulphaguanidine, use of, against peach X-disease virus, 532.
- Sulphanilamide, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
- Sulphur, Chancel method for estimating relative density of, 534.
- in relation to plant nutrition, 42.
- , recent researches on, 310.
- , use of, against *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on cucurbits, 343; *E. polygoni* on *Delphinium*, 478; *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *coffae* on coffee, 472; manganese deficiency in beet, oats, and pea, 584; *Oidium ceratoniae* on *Cerantia siliqua*, 25; *Oidium heveae* on *Hevea* rubber, 449, 582; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucurbits, 343; *Puccinia triticina* on wheat, 467; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 173, 510, 532, 569; (?) sorghum diseases, 315; *Sphacelotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 361; *Uncinula necator* on vine, 508.
- bentonite, use of, against *Sclerotinia laxa* on fruit trees, 430.
- , colloidal, review of properties of, 485.
- , —, technique for preparing, 32.

- [Sulphur, colloidal], use of, against *Uncinula necator* on vine, 508.
- copper mixture, use of, against *Phylospora perseae* on mango, 31.
- dust, use of, against *Actinomyces scabies* on potato, 121; *Cercospora arachidicola* and *C. personata* on groundnut, 66, 221; *Cladosporium cucumerinum* on cucumber, 592; *Eosporium sultanae* on vine, 217; *Peronospora antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum nuttallianum*, 72; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 139; *Sphaerotheca sorghi* on sorghum, 18; *Xanthomonas juglandis* on walnut, 590.
- , flotation, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 74, 510.
- , flowers of, use of, against *Puccinia graminis* on wheat, 358; *Uncinula necator* on vine, 507.
- , magnetic '70' paste, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 510.
- , micronized, use of, against *Coccomyces hiemalis* on cherry, 173, 510; *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae* on apple, 510; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on cherry, 510; on peach, 173; *Venturia inaequalis*, 174, 510; *V. pirina*, 531.
- , organic, use of, as a seed treatment for onion, 404.
- , powdered, use of, against *Oidium piperis* on *Piper belle*, 43.
- , sublimed, use of, against *Uncinula necator* on vine, 508.
- , wettable, injury to apple, 369.
- , —, use of, against *Actinomyces scabies* on potato, 119, 121; *Fabraea maculata* on pear, 174; *Podosphaera leucotricha* on apple, 369; *Puccinia graminis* on wheat, 358; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 139, 532; *S. laxa* on fruit trees, 430; *Sphaerotheca humuli* on hops, 174; *Uncinula necator* on vine, 508; *Venturia inaequalis*, 356, 369, 529.
- Sulphuric acid, use of, against *Venturia pirina*, 531; *Xanthomonas malvacearum*, 475; in correcting soil sickness, 93.
- Sulsol, use of, against *Puccinia graminis* on wheat, 358.
- Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), *Botrytis cinerea* on, in Rumania, 423.
- , mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- , *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498; Rumania, 423.
- , tomato spotted wilt virus on, in Tanganyika Territory, 163.
- Supergermite, use of, against *Fusarium* on *Gladiolus*, 476.
- Swede (*Brassica napobrassica*), boron deficiency in, in Finland, 337.
- , calcium deficiency in, 93.
- , diseases in Germany, varietal reaction to, 248.
- , manganese excess in, 93.
- , *Phoma lingam* on, in U.S.A., 305.
- Sweet clover, see *Melilotus*.
- Sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*), broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , *Hyalodendron album* on, in Canada, E. Africa, Europe, and U.S.A., 236; culture of, 237; *Erostrotheca multiformis* (?) perfect state of, 236.
- Sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), *Ceratostomella fimbriata* on, in Tobago, 223; U.S.A., 176; thiamin in relation to perithecial formation in, 405.
- , *Cercospora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- , *Cystopus ipomoeae-panduratae* on, in Brazil, 347.
- [Sweet potato], *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *batatas* on, in U.S.A., 466; varietal reaction to, 176.
- , —, *Oxyosporum* f. 2 on, in U.S.A., 466; production of antibiotic substances by, 290.
- , —, internal cork, (?) a virus disease, 8; transmission of, by grafting, 8.
- , —, *Macrophoma phaseoli* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- , —, magnesium deficiency in, in U.S.A., 341.
- , —, mottle leaf disease in S. Africa, 270.
- , —, *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* on, in U.S.A., 185.
- , —, *Plenodomus destruens* on, in the Belgian Congo, 123; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353.
- , —, *Rhizopus stolonifer* on, 250.
- , —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , —, virus disease (?) in Central Africa, 376; E. Africa, 63; S. Africa, 352; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353; legislation against, in Ceylon, 556; transmission of, by grafting, 352.
- Sycamore, see *Acer pseudoplatanus*.
- Synchytrium dolichi* on *Phaseolus lunatus* in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- *endobioticum* on potato in Denmark, 580; Rumania, 274; S. Africa, 351; Switzerland, 220; breeding against, 291; legislation against, in Persia, 352; S. Africa, 351; physiology of, 490; spread of, 580; varietal reaction to, 292, 351.
- Syringa vulgaris*, see Lilac.
- Tagetes patula*, cucumber mosaic virus on, 282.
- Tamarindus indica*, *Ganoderma lucidum* on, in Ceylon, 555.
- Taphrina caerulescens* on oak in U.S.A., 502.
- *deformans* on peach in U.S.A., 510.
- on plum and *Prunus besseyi* in U.S.A., 481.
- *pruni* on plum in Yugoslavia, 26.
- Tar, use of, as a wound dressing, 242.
- oil, use of, as a timber preservative, 209.
- Taraxacum*, *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, in Denmark, 365.
- *officinale*, see Dandelion.
- Taxonomy of fungi, 387.
- Tea (*Camellia sinensis*), *Aglaospora* and *Aleurodiscus* on, 260.
- apple foliage blight, 261.
- , *Aschersonia*, *Auricularia auricula-judae*, *Botryodiplodia theobromae*, *Capnodium*, *Cephalosporium mycoides*, and *C. parasiticus* on, 260.
- , *Cladosporium* on, 261.
- , *Corticium dealbans* and *C. salmonicolor* on, 260.
- , *Elsinoe leucospila* on, in Peru, 542.
- , *Exobasidium vexans* on, in Ceylon, 197, 198, 199, 261, 388, 389, 555; India, 297, 298.
- , fasciation of, 261.
- , *Fomes lignosus* on, 260.
- , *Ganoderma applanatum* and *G. lucidum* on, 260.
- , —, *pseudoferreum* on, in Malaya, 464.
- , *Gibberella* and *Glomerella major* on, 260.
- , *Graphium nanum* on, in India, 260.
- , (?) *Guignardia camelliae* on, in Malaya, 464.
- , *Helicobasidium compactum*, *Hypoxyylon asaricodes*, *Irpex destruens*, and *Macrophoma theicola* on, 260.
- , *Marasmius equicrinis* and *M. pulcher* on, 261.
- , *Massaria theicola* and *Meliola* on, 260.
- , *Monacrosporium ambrosium* on, in Ceylon the ambrosia fungus of *Xyleborus fornicatus* 70.
- , *Nectria* on, 261.

- [Tea, *Nectria*] *cinnabarina* on, 260.
 —, *Pestalotia theae* on, in Malaya, 464.
 —, *Phaeosaccardinula javanicum* on, 260.
 —, 'phloem necrosis' virus in Ceylon, 339.
 —, *Phomopsis* on, 260.
 —, *Poria hypobrunnea* on, 260.
 —, — *hypolateritia* on, in Ceylon, 297.
 —, *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* on, 260.
 —, *Rosellinia arcuata* on, 260; in Ceylon, 297.
 —, — *bothrina* on, in Ceylon, 297.
 —, rosette blight, 260.
 —, *Septobasidium*, *S. bogoriense* and *Sphaerostilbe repens* on, 260.
 —, stem diseases of, memorandum on, 259.
 —, sun scorch, factors affecting, 259.
 —, *Ustilina zonata* on, 260.
 —, *Xyleborus fornicatus* on, in Ceylon, 70.
 Technique for assaying fungicides, 434; growth substances, 191.
 — for conserving fungus cultures, 329.
 — for controlling feeding of insects, 235; resistance of trees to absorption of liquids, 243.
 — for counting cells, 190; soil micro-organisms, 449; spores of *Hyphomycetes*, 534.
 — for detecting antagonistic micro-organisms, 145; bacterial infections in plants, 313; *Fusarium lini* on flax, 20; moulds, 145; *Polyspora lini* on flax, 19; potato leaf roll virus, 124; tobacco mosaic virus, 261; virus inclusions, 272.
 — for determining amount of carbon dioxide in air, 575; chlorosis-inducing potency of soils, 348; fungi by means of perforated cards, 99; *Fusarium*, 134; *F. oxysporum* var. *cubense*, 221; mineral deficiencies in plants, 42; mineral dosage in relation to tree size, 243; moisture content of hay or grain, 325; of stored farm products, 575; percentage germination of fungal spores, 347; potato leaf roll virus, 578; potato viruses, 149; relative density of sulphur, 534; relative fineness of copper oxychlorides and copper oxides, 432; resistance of paints to mildew, 251; respiratory changes of fungus cultures under oil, 329; smut spore loads on cereal seeds, 315; soil fertility, 93; southern bean mosaic virus activity, 403; sperson on treated seed, 505; types of raspberry mosaic, 246; white and brown wood-rotting fungi in culture, 342.
 — for disinfecting seeds by means of vapour-heat, 328.
 — for expressing dosage and response relationships in mould inhibition, 247.
 — for inoculating agar plates in antibiotic assays, 250; inoculating oats with *Helminthosporium victoriae*, 181.
 — for isolating fungi, 82.
 — for pelleting onion seed, 404.
 — for preparing colloidal sulphur, 32; micro-tools, 82; roll tube cultures, 489; streptomycin by surface culture, 253.
 — for removing transmissible lysins from bacterial cultures, 413.
 — for sealing culture tubes, 144; liquid mounting media, 82.
 — for studying living mycelium, 81.
 — for testing fungicides, 32, 243, 247, 252, 407, 414; leather, 148; textiles, 83, 147, 438.
 — for transmitting sugar-cane mosaic virus, 157.
Tephrosia vogelii, *Cercospora theae* on, in Ceylon, 297.
 Tersan, use of, against *Sclerotinia gladioli* on *Gladiolus*, 476; *Sclerotium delphinii* on *Iris*, 512; as a seed treatment for onion, 404.
Tetracium coccicola imperfect state of *Podonectria coccicola*, 542.
Tetracytum lauri on *Laurus nobilis* in Belgium, 463.
 Tetra-iodoethylene, fungistatic properties of, 440.
 Tetramethylthiuram disulphide, use of, against *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371.
 —, see also T.M.T.D.
 Textiles, *Aspergillus niger* and *Chaetomium globosum* on, control, 330.
 —, *Cladosporium herbarum* on, 250.
 —, rot-proofing of, 84, 116, 379; survey of literature on, 576.
 —, technique for testing resistance of, to fungi, 83, 147, 438.
 —, see also Cotton and Flax.
Thalictrum, *Puccinia triticina* on, 227.
Thamnotettix argentata transmitting tomato big bud virus, 500.
Thelophora laciniata synonym of *T. terrestris*, 245.
 — *terrestris* on *Vaccinium australe* in U.S.A., 245; *T. laciniata* synonym of, 245.
Theobroma bicolor, cacao swollen shoot virus can infect, 516, 557.
 — cacao, see Cacao.
 Thiamine, use of *Bacillus popilliae* for assaying minute amounts of, 19.
Thielavia basicola, comparison of, with *Thielaviopsis basicola*, 298.
 — *sepedonicum* on cotton textile, 487.
Thielaviopsis basicola, comparison of, with *Thielavia basicola*, 298.
 —, host range of, 125.
 — on clover, factors affecting, 123; varietal reaction to, 125.
 — on cotton in Turkey, 350.
 — on endive in Italy, 552.
 — on Leguminosae, susceptibility to, 125.
 — on tobacco in Canada, 340; Italy, 543; U.S.A., 65; control, 340; varietal reaction to, 47, 65, 117, 175, 340, 543.
 —, water loss from cultures of, 148.
 Thiomate 9, use of, against date spoilage, 430.
 Thiosan, use of, as a seed treatment for beet, 1.
 Thiourea, use of, against moulds on stored wheat, 147.
Thrips, *Beauveria bassiana* on, in Brazil, 100.
Thuja, *Cercospora thuja* on, in U.S.A., 175.
 — *orientalis* and *T. plicata*, *Coryneum cardinale* on, in U.S.A., 545.
 — *plicata*, *Didymascella thuja* on, in Belgium, 463; England, 591.
 Thymol peat, use of, against *Penicillium* on potato, 152.
 — vapour, use of, against *Fusarium caeruleum* on potato, 292.
Thymus serpyllum, Basidiomycete on, in Canada, 527.
Thysanolaena agrostis, *Xanthomonas vasculorum* on, 234.
Tilia, see Lime tree.
 Tillantin, use of, as a seed treatment for cabbage, eggplant, pepper and radish, 399.
 — R, use of, as a seed treatment for cabbage, 399.
Tilletia on wheat in Italy, 560; technique for determining spore loads in, 315.
 — *caries* on cereals, including rye, in Argentina, 560.
 — on wheat, see under Wheat.
 —, use of, as a test organism in assaying fungicides, 434; dust seed-treatments, 414.

- [*Tilletia*] *foetida* on cereals, including rye, in Argentina, 560.
- on wheat, see under Wheat.
 - *horrida*, legislation against, in Iran, 352.
 - *intermedia* on wheat in Italy, 415; Rumania, 415, 468.
 - *panicci* on barley in U.S.S.R., 11.
 - on *Hordeum tetrastichum* in Rumania, 448.
 - *triticoide* on wheat in Italy, 415; Rumania, 415, 468.
- Timber, *Aspergillus* on, control, 546.
- , *Ceratostomella* on, control, 546.
 - , *ulmi* on, in U.S.S.R., 301.
 - , *Coniophora puteana* on, 397; in Australia, 302; control, 343.
 - decay in Canada, 210; U.S.A., 105.
 - and preservation, handbook on, 52.
 - deterioration in fire-killed stands in Canada, 342.
 - , *Diplodia* on, control, 546.
 - discoloration in Canada, 210.
 - , *Fomes annosus* on, 397; in U.S.A., 105.
 - , — *pini* on, 397.
 - , — *pinicola* on, 397; in U.S.A., 105.
 - , fungi on, 52.
 - heart rot in Canada, 342.
 - , *Hormiscium gelatinosum* on, 546.
 - , *Hydnium abietis* on, in U.S.A., 547.
 - , *Lentinus lepideus* on, 397.
 - , *Lenzites sepiaria* on, 397; in Canada, 343.
 - , — *trabea* on, 397.
 - , *Merulius lacrymans* on, 397.
 - , — *pinastri* on, in Australia, 302.
 - , *Mucor* and *Penicillium* on, control, 546.
 - , *Peniophora gigantea* on, in U.S.S.R., 301.
 - , *Polyporus zonalis* on, in Australia, 302.
 - , *Polystictus abietinus* on, in Canada, 343.
 - , — *ostreiformis* on, in Ceylon, 51.
 - , — *versicolor* on, control, 343.
 - , *Poria vaporaria* on, 397.
 - , — *xantha* on, in Australia, 302; control, 268.
 - preservation by the Bethell process, 302; the Boucherie process, 303; charring, 208; the empty and full cell pressure processes, 51; the open tank process, 51.
 - in Canada and Finland, 209; Germany, 303; Nyasaland, 51; Victoria, 222.
 - with ammonium pentachlorophenate, 547; arbovit oil, 209; arsenic, 208; ascu solution, 52; borax, 52, 547; BSE, 268; carbolineum, 208, 209; carbolineum Avenarius, 209; celcure, 268; copper ammonium naphthenate, 268; copper naphthenate, 210, 268, 547; copper sulphate, 208; creosote, 106, 208, 209, 210, 268, 302; DDT, 52; ethyl mercuric phosphate, 547; gammexane PC 982, 52; PC 1147, 52; 8-hydroxyquinoline, 547; impregnol, 208; iron naphthenate, 547; lime, 52; pentachlorophenol, 268, 547; phenyl mercuric oleate, 268, 547; sodium pentachlorophenate, 546; sodium silicofluoride, 52; tar oil, wood tar, and zinc chloride, 209; zinc naphthenate, 547.
 - preservatives, effect of, on seam compounds, 503.
 - , —, testing of, 209.
 - , —, variation in weather conditions in relation to, 210.
 - , *Pullularia pullulans* on, in Sweden, 211.
 - rots, control, 379.
 - sap rot in Canada, 342.
 - — stain in New Zealand, 167.
 - , *Trametes serialis* on, 397; in Australia, 302; Canada, 210.
 - , *Trichoderma* on, 546.
- [Timber], *Xylobotryum coralloides* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
- Titaospora andropogonis* on sorghum in India, 315; Tanganyika Territory, 353.
- T.M.T., use of, against *Uromyces fabae* on broad bean, 116.
- T.M.T.D., use of, as a seed treatment for flax and hemp, 421.
- Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), *Acremoniella atra* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
- , *Alternaria* on, in Italy, 201.
 - , — *longipes* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 118, 200.
 - , — *tabacina* on, in Madagascar, 80.
 - , *Ascochyta nicotianae* on, in Italy, 201.
 - aucuba mosaic virus on tobacco, variation in reaction to, 389.
 - , *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, in Italy, 102.
 - barn rot in Southern Rhodesia, 118.
 - , bean top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
 - , boron deficiency in, in Italy, 201.
 - , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
 - brown root rot in U.S.A., 264; *Paratylenchus pratensis* in relation to, 264.
 - , *Cercospora nicotianae* on, in Italy, 201; Southern Rhodesia, 200; control, 200; toxicity of antibiotics to, 202; varietal reaction to, 47.
 - club root virus in U.S.A., 101.
 - , *Corticium solani* on, in Brazil, 586.
 - , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
 - , *Dolichos enation* mosaic virus can infect, 310.
 - dwarf disease in Formosa, 201.
 - enation, 701, 299.
 - , *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, in Italy, 201.
 - frenching, 263; in Italy, 201.
 - , *Fusarium oxysporum* var. *nicotianae* on, varietal reaction to, 48.
 - 'green spot' in Italy, 201.
 - , growth responses of, to diffusates of soil bacteria and to organic compounds, 263.
 - leaf curl virus on potato, transmission of, by *Bemisia gossypiperda*, 578; to tomato and tobacco, 578.
 - — — on tobacco, 544, 578.
 - — — on tomato, 578; in India, 544; transmission of, by *Bemisia gossypiperda*, 544; to (?) *Datura stramonium*, *Nicotiana glutinosa*, *N. sylvestris*, potato, and tobacco, 544.
 - , magnesium deficiency in, in Italy, 201.
 - mosaic virus on chilli, 587; in Argentina, 389.
 - — — on *Eryngium aquaticum*, 200.
 - — — on *Nicotiana glutinosa*, course of infection in, 262.
 - — — on *Phlox drummondii* and *Plantago lanceolata*, 161.
 - — — on tobacco in Dominica, 464; Formosa, 201; Italy, 201; U.S.A., 64; antagonism of *Aspergillus niger* to, 451; appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272; breeding against, 64; course of infection in, 262; distribution of, in host plants, 162; effect of, on respiration of plant tissues, 162; of protein isolated from *Phytolacca esculenta* on, 508; electron microscope studies on, 161, 499; factors affecting, 162; immunochemical study on, 160, 161; inhibition of, by spinach extracts, 58; particle size in different strains of, 162; purification of, 200; serological studies on, 160, 161, 162, 202, 349; statistical epidemiology of, 452; technique for determining, 149, 261; transmission of, to *Nicotiana glutinosa* and *N. sylvestris*, 390; variants of, 202; variation in reaction to, 389; varietal reaction to, 48, 175, 201.
 - — — on tomato, 200; in Argentina, 389;

- New Zealand, 587; breeding against, 340; control, 102, 587; factors affecting, 102, 112; transmission of, by seed and soil, 587; to chilli, eggplant, *Physalis peruviana*, *Solanum nigrum*, and tobacco, 587.
- [Tobacco] necrosis virus on *Primula obconica* in England, 22; transmission of, to bean, cucumber, *Nicotiana glutinosa*, *P. malacoides*, *P. vulgaris*, and tobacco, 22.
- on tobacco, antagonism of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Streptomyces griseus* to, 451; appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272; effect of protein isolated from *Phytolacca esculenta* on, 508; molecular arrangement of crystals in, 452.
- , para-tobacco mosaic virus on, course of infection in, 262.
- , *Paratylenchus pratensis* on, in U.S.A., 264; in relation to brown root rot, 264.
- , *Peronospora tabacina* on, in Australia, 587; Northern Mexico, 163; U.S.A., 48, 163, 175, 437, 587; control, 175, 275; factors affecting, 163; forecasting service against, 437; varietal reaction to, 48.
- , *Phytophthora palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore formation in, 159.
- , — *parasitica* var. *nicotianae* on, in U.S.A., 390; varietal reaction to, 48, 390.
- , potassium deficiency in, in Italy, 201.
- , potato virus C on, comparison of, with potato virus Y, 332.
- , — X on, 577; appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272.
- , — Y on, appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272; comparison of, with potato virus C, 332; transmission of, by aphids, 332.
- , *Pseudomonas angulata* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 200.
- , — *tabacum* on, in U.S.A., 64; factors affecting, 124.
- , *Pythium indicum* can infect, 573.
- , rattle disease virus, purification of, 200.
- , *Rhizopus* (?) *arrhizus* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 118.
- , ring spot virus on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
- , — on tobacco in Formosa, 202; Italy, 201; appearance of, in ultra-violet light, 272; geographical distribution of, 96; inhibition of, by spinach extracts, 58; variant of, 202.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , southern stem rot, varietal reaction to, 47.
- , speck spot in Italy, 201; previously attributed to *Pseudomonas maculicola*, 201.
- , *Stemphylium consortiale* can infect, 40.
- , streak virus in U.S.A., 64.
- , — on *Nicotiana*, 65.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, in Canada, 340; Italy, 543; U.S.A., 65; control, 340; varietal reaction to, 47, 65, 117, 175, 340, 543.
- , tomato big bud virus on, in New S. Wales, 500.
- , tomato smalling disease can infect, 203.
- , spotted wilt virus on, in Tanganyika Territory, 163.
- , toxicity of substance produced by *Fusarium ocydysporum* var. *nicotianae* to, 499.
- , veinbanding in Italy, 201.
- , *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, varietal reaction to, 117.
- , *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Southern Rhodesia, 117; U.S.A., 390; breeding against, 204; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 47, 118, 264, 390.
- , (?) zinc deficiency in, in Italy, 201.
- Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), *Alternaria solani* on, in New S. Wales, 587; Queensland, 221; U.S.A., 49, 164, 174; Venezuela, 391; control, 49, 164, 174, 221, 284, 288, 453, 588; factors affecting, 391.
- , *Armillaria mellea* on, in England, 462.
- , *Bacterium tumefaciens* on, control, 276.
- , beet curly top virus on, breeding against, 118, 224.
- , big bud virus in New S. Wales, 394, 499; host range of, 500; transmission of, by *Thamnotettix argentata*, 500.
- , — on chilli, eggplant, and potato in U.S.S.R., 48; transmission of, by *Hyalesthes obsoletus*, 48.
- , — virus on tomato in U.S.A., 341; U.S.S.R., 48; transmission of, by *Hyalesthes obsoletus*, 48.
- , blossom-end rot in U.S.A., 587; varietal reaction to, 453.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , bushy stunt virus, effect of protein isolated from *Phytolacca esculenta* on, 508; purification of, 200.
- , *Cladosporium fulvum* on, in Canada, 354; Peru, 164; Rumania, 274; U.S.A., 164, 174; control, 164, 174; factors affecting, 164; immunity from, in relation to necrosis, 543; varietal reaction to, 164, 543.
- , 'cloud' in New Zealand, factors affecting, 117.
- , *Colletotrichum phomoides* on, in U.S.A., 164, 174, 392, 466; control, 164, 174, 435, 466; method of infection, 391; study on, 392; transmission of, to chilli and eggplant, 393.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , *Corynebacterium michiganense* on, study on, 393; varietal reaction to, 592.
- , cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
- , damping-off of, control, 53.
- , *Diaporthe phaseolorum* var. *sojae* on, in U.S.A., 55.
- , *Didymella lycopersici* on, in England, 111; toxicity of some fungicides to, 112; transmission of, by air, 112.
- , diseases in Peru, 340; breeding against, in Hawaii, 340; control, 121.
- , effect of fungicides and insecticides on, 31.
- , frost damage to, relation between spray treatments and, 39.
- , *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici* on, 394; in Queensland, 399; S. Africa, 351; U.S.A., 356; breeding against, 119, 120, 454; nature of resistance to, 588; physiologic races of, 121; varietal reaction to, 119, 351, 356, 399, 454.
- , hard core in New Zealand, control, 117.
- , leaf spots in U.S.A., 313.
- , magnesium deficiency in, in England, 49; U.S.A., 341.
- , molybdenum deficiency in, control, 401.
- , *Myrothecium roridum* on, in England, 462.
- , necrosis in Canada, 543; immunity from *Cladosporium fulvum* in relation to, 543.
- , *Oidiopsis taurica* on, in Cyprus, 556.
- , *Phoma* can infect, 462.
- , *Phytophthora* (?) *cactorum* can infect, 125.
- , — *cryptogea* on, in England, 111.
- , — *infestans* on, in Queensland, 391; U.S.A., 49, 164, 174, 292, 341, 355, 437; Venezuela, 391; control, 164, 174, 341, 391, 435; culture and storage of, 195; factors affecting, 49, 391; forecasting outbreaks of, 292, 341, 437.

- [*Tomato, Phytophthora*] *palmivora* on, in India, 159; oospore germination in, 159.
 —, — *parasitica* on, in England, 111.
 —, potato virus X on, 577; effect of, on resistance to *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici*, 588.
 —, *Pythium* (?) *debaryanum* on, in England, 111.
 —, — *indicum* can infect, 573.
 —, *Rhizoctonia* on, control, 126.
 —, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on, in Denmark, 498.
 —, *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
 — seed certification in Victoria, 591.
 —, *Septoria lycopersici* on, in Madagascar, 81; U.S.A., 49; breeding against, 119, 120; control, 49; genetics of, 120.
 — 'smalling disease' on tomato, transmission of, by *Bemisia tabaci*, 203; to *Solanum nigrum*, 204; tobacco, 203.
 — spotted wilt virus on *Chrysanthemum* in New S. Wales, 136.
 — — — on *Dahlia*, 222; in Belgium, 187, 588; U.S.A., 299, 421; control, 421; krommek disease a strain of, 118; varietal reaction to, 421.
 — — — on *Delphinium* in U.S.A., 477.
 — — — on lettuce in S. Africa, 351; krommek identical with, 351.
 — — — on potato in Canberra, 222, 380; New S. Wales, 34, 222, 380; Victoria, 380; factors affecting, 34; transmission of, by insects, 34; *Thrips tabaci*, 380; variation in, 222; varietal reaction to, 380.
 — — — on sunflower and tobacco in Tanganyika Territory, 163.
 — — — on tomato in Brazil, 203; Canberra, 222; England, 113; New S. Wales, 222; U.S.A., 299; abnormal symptoms in, 113; control, 275; effect of, on resistance to *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *lycopersici*, 588; transmission of, by *Agallia albidula*, 203; varietal reaction to, 299.
 —, *Stemphylium consortiale* can infect, 40.
 —, — *solani* on, in U.S.A., 341.
 — sun scald in Canada, 354.
 —, tobacco leaf curl virus on, 578; in India, 544; transmission of, by *Bemisia gossypiperda*, 544.
 —, — mosaic virus on, 200; in Argentina, 389; New Zealand, 587; breeding against, 340; control, 102, 587; factors affecting, 102, 112; transmission of, by seed and soil, 587; to chilli, eggplant, *Physalis peruviana*, *Solanum nigrum*, and tobacco, 587.
 —, toxicity of clavacin and lycoramasmin to, 453.
 —, *Verticillium albo-atrum* on, in Brazil, 100; Canada, 354; factors affecting, 111.
 —, — *dahliae* on, factors affecting, 111; thermal death point of, 204.
 — virus disease in Brazil, 203; Venezuela, 391; host range of, 203.
 — wilt in Fiji, 9.
 —, *Xanthomonas solanacearum* on, in Queensland, 399; Southern Rhodesia, 117; Tanganyika Territory, 353; control, 223; geographical distribution of, 96.
 —, — *vesicatoria* on, in Queensland, 391; U.S.A., 313.
 —, zinc deficiency in, effect of, on water relation and osmotic pressure, 452.
Torula, classification of, 47.
 — on dates and figs, 251.
 — on flax fibres, 379.
 — on food, 251.
 — on hemp fibres, 379.
[Torula] on plum, 251.
 — *cremoris* in butter and tinned milk, 251.
 — *dimidiata*, taxonomy of, 104.
 — *sphaerica* in butter and tinned milk, 251.
Tragopogon porrifolius, see Salsify.
Trametes lactinea and *T. lilacino-gilva* in New S. Wales, 105.
 — *serialis* on spruce in U.S.A., 547.
 — on timber, 397; in Australia, 302; Canada, 210.
 — *serpens*, toxicity of, to *Staphylococcus aureus*, 252.
 — *suaveolens* on *Salix* in U.S.A., 503.
 Travaicid, use of, against *Coniothyrium diplo-diella* on vine, 376.
 Tribasic injury to cucumber, 31; potato and tomato, 39.
Trichoconis padwickii on rice in India, 448.
Trichoderma, antibiotics from, 83.
 — in soil in U.S.A., 511.
 — on cabbage in U.S.A., 126.
 — on cork gaskets, control, 436.
 — on paper, control, 254.
 — on *Phaseolus lunatus* in U.S.A., 126.
 — on timber, control, 546.
 — *viride*, antibiotics from, 83.
 —, effect of glutinosin on, 146; of patulin on, 83.
 — on cotton textiles, 487.
 —, production of gliotoxin and viridin by, 203.
 —, toxicity of bacterium in wood pulp to, 106.
 —, —, —, to *Ophiobolus graminis*, 228.
 —, use of, as a test organism in proofing textiles, 148.
Tricholoma, toxicity of, 46.
 — *nudum*, toxicity of, to *Staphylococcus aureus*, 252.
 — *panaeolum*, toxicity of, to *Bacterium coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, 438.
Trichophyton on leather, 485.
 — *gypseum*, dual phenomenon in, 321.
 — *mentagrophytes*, use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 367.
 — *purpureum*, mutation in, 322.
Trichosporium in coal mines in Sweden, 206.
 — *vesiculosum* on *Casuarina equisetifolia* in Ceylon, 555.
 Trichothecin, effect of, on *Botrytis allii*, *Gibberella zeae*, *Mucor erectus*, *Paeclomyces varioti*, *Penicillium digitatum*, and *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*, 437.
 —, production of, by *Trichothecium roseum*, 437.
Trichothecium roseum, antibiotics from, 83.
 — on apple in Denmark, 411.
 — on decaying fruit, 250.
 —, production of trichothecin by, 437.
Trifolium, see Clover.
Trigonella coerulea and *T. cretica*, *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
 Trioxymethylene compounds, use of, against *Puccinia carthami* on safflower, 541; *Ustilago avenae* on oats, 517.
 Triphenylmethane derivatives, fungistatic activity of, 485.
Triticum, see Wheat.
Tropaeolum majus, *Heterosporium* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
 —, — *tropaevi* on, in Ceylon, 197.
Tsuga, *Pucciniastrum myrtilli* on, in U.S.A., 30.
 — *canadensis*, *Didymascella tsugae* on, in Scotland, 505.
 —, —, *Pucciniastrum myrtilli* on, in U.S.A., 45.

- [*Tsuga*] *heterophylla*, *Fomes annosus* on, in U.S.A., 105.
- , *Hydnum abietis* on, in U.S.A., 547.
- *mertensiana*, *Aleurodiscus weirii*, *Fomes pini*, *F. pinicola*, and *Herpotrichia nigra* on, in U.S.A., 207.
- Tuads, use of, against damping-off of cabbage, 213; *Plasmiodiophora brassicae* on cabbage, 213.
- Tulip, *Botrytis tulipae* on, in Rumania, 274; U.S.A., 512.
- breaking virus in Denmark, 186.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 323.
- , *Penicillium* on, in Canada, 282; U.S.A., 323.
- , *Pythium ultimum* on, in U.S.A., 323.
- , *Sclerotium tuliparum* on, culture of, 134.
- , *Urocystis colchici* on, in Turkey, 115.
- Tumex, use of, against *Coniothyrium diplodiella* on vine, 376.
- Turnip (*Brassica rapa*), *Alternaria brassicae* on, in Argentina, 257.
- , boron deficiency in, in Canada, 505; Finland, 337.
- , *Cercospora brassicae* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- , *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
- , *Erwinia carotovora* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 591.
- mosaic virus on cabbage, inhibition of, by spinach extracts, 58; varietal reaction to, 269.
- , *Phoma lingam* on, in U.S.A., 305; control, 343.
- , *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* on, in U.S.A., 185.
- , *Xanthomonas campestris* on, control, 343.
- yellow mosaic virus, purification of, 200; serology of, 349; structure of, 303.
- Typhula* on cereals in Sweden, 417, 518.
- on grasses in Sweden, 518.
- *borealis* on rye in Sweden, 416.
- *itoana* on wheat in U.S.S.R., 226.
- Tyrothricin, effect of, on soil organisms, 41.
- Ulmus*, see Elm.
- Ultra-violet rays, use of, against fruit rots, 25; in detecting timber decay, 210; virus diseases in potato, 34.
- Uncinula necator* on vine in Costa Rica, 461; France, 409, 507; U.S.A., 509; breeding against, 409; control, 310, 422, 507, 509, 553; culture of, 330; varietal reaction to, 409, 507.
- Uramon, use of, as a soil disinfectant, 125; with calcium cyanamide, 340.
- Uredinales, list of, in Argentina, 45; the Canary Islands and Madeira, 586; Rumania, 448; U.S.S.R., 11.
- Urocystis agropyri* on *Phleum pratense* in U.S.A., 367.
- *cepulae* on onion in Canada, 354, 555; control, 404.
- *colchici* on tulip in Turkey, 115.
- *occulta* on rye, 468; *U. secalis* (?) a race of, 11.
- *secalis* on rye in U.S.S.R., 11; (?) race of *U. occulta*, 11.
- *tritici* on wheat, 468; in Greece, 95; India, 315; Turkey, 115; U.S.S.R., 11; effect of, on yield, 315; legislation against, in Persia, 352; varietal reaction to, 358, 559.
- Uromyces appendiculatus* on bean in Canada, 554; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 56, 170; control, 248; physiologic races of, 170; varietal reaction to, 56, 170; water loss from, 149.
- *betae* on beet (?) in the Canary Islands and Madeira, 586; Rumania, 387; Turkey, 114; varietal reaction to, 225.
- [*Uromyces*] *ciceris-arietini* on *Cicer arietinum* in India, study on, 110.
- *dianthi* on carnation, control, 288.
- *fabae* on broad bean in England, 57, 462; New Zealand, 116; Tanganyika Territory, 158; Turkey, 114; control, 116.
- on *Lathyrus macrorrhizus* in France, 258.
- on lentil and vetch in Turkey, 114.
- *genistae-tindoriae* on *Caragana arborescens* in Rumania, 387.
- on laburnum in England, 462.
- *glycyrrhizae* on *Glycyrrhiza glabra* in Turkey, 114.
- *medicaginis* on *Euphorbia cyparissias* and lucerne in Canada, 554.
- *pisi* on pea in Switzerland, 158.
- *terebinthi* on pistachio nut and *Pistacia terebinthus* in Turkey, 114.
- *trifolii-repentis* on clover in Turkey, 114.
- Urophlyctis alfaiae* on lucerne and *Medicago*, geographical distribution of, 96.
- Uspulun, use of, against damping-off of seedlings, 204.
- U.S. Rubber Co. No. 604, use of, as a seed treatment for groundnut, 66.
- Ustilaginales, list of, in Madeira, 586; Rumania, 448.
- on *Carex*, *Polygonum*, and *Rhynchospora*, taxonomy of, 46.
- , taxonomy of, 45.
- Ustilaginoidea virens* on rice in Brazil, 450.
- Ustilago*, taxonomy of, 46.
- *avenae* on oats, 468; in France, 517; Madagascar, 80; Tanganyika Territory, 158; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 180, 468; breeding against, 15; control, 468, 517; losses caused by, 115; physiologic races of, 181; varietal reaction to, 15, 126, 181, 182.
- , use of, as a test organism for fungicides, 367.
- *bullata*, hybridization between *U. hordei* and, 231; *U. striiformis* and, 283.
- on *Bromus marginatus* and *Elymus canadensis*, physiologic races of, 240.
- on grasses in U.S.A., 511; culture of, 187.
- *crameri* on *Setaria italica* in Ceylon, 555.
- *euchlaenae* synonym of *U. maydis*, 46.
- *hordei*, hybridization between *U. bullata* and, 231.
- on barley in Great Britain, 127; Turkey, 115; breeding against, 15; factors affecting, 467; incidence of infection in, 127; varietal reaction to, 15, 224.
- *hypodytes*, lectotype for, 46.
- *kellermanii* not a synonym of *U. euchlaenae*, 46.
- *kolleri* on oats, 468; in Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 468; breeding against, 15; control, 468; varietal reaction to, 15, 126, 181, 182.
- *maydis* on maize, 468; in Hawaii, 95; Turkey, 115.
- , *U. euchlaenae* a synonym of, 46.
- *nigra* on barley, 468; breeding against, 15.
- *nuda* on barley, 468; in Canada, 316; Denmark, 410; Turkey, 115; U.S.S.R., 13; breeding against, 15, 119; control, 13, 316; varietal reaction to, 15, 119, 126, 224.
- *perennans* on *Arrhenatherum elatius*, types of, 124, 125.
- *scitaminea* on (?) *Cyperus esculentus* and grasses in Portuguese E. Africa, 337.
- on sugar-cane in Argentina, 99; Mauritius, 542; Portuguese E. Africa, 157, 337; Rhodesia, 157; S. Africa, 337; Southern Rhodesia, 118,

- 338; control, 337; factors affecting, 337; varietal reaction to, 99, 118, 157, 337, 542.
- [*Ustilago*] *striiformis*, hybridization between *U. bullata* and, 283.
- on *Phleum pratense* in U.S.A., 136, 367; culture of, 136.
- on *Poa pratensis* in U.S.A., 136; culture of, 136.
- *tritici*, see under Wheat.
- *violacea* on *Melandrium album* and *M. dioicum* in England, 23.
- on *Saponaria officinalis* in Rumania, 448.
- Ustilina zonata* on apple in Tanganyika Territory, 224.
- on tea, 260.
- U.T. 1875 b, use of, against damping-off of beet, 456; as a seed treatment for hemp, 421.
- Vaccinium*, *Alternaria*, *Botrytis*, *Curvularia inaequalis*, and *Diaporthe vaccinii* on, in U.S.A., 30.
- , *Dothichiza caroliniana* on, in U.S.A., 29.
- , *Dothiorella ribis* and *Exobasidium vaccinii* on, in U.S.A., 30.
- , *Gloeocercospora inconspicua* on, in U.S.A., 29.
- , *Glomerella cingulata* on, in U.S.A., 30; *Gloeosporium* imperfect state of, 30.
- , *Godronia cassandrae* on, in Canada, 555.
- , *Melanospora destruens* and *Microsphaera alni* var. *vaccinii* on, in U.S.A., 30.
- , *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi* on, in U.S.A., 30; *Sclerotinia vaccinii-corymbosi* synonym of, 30.
- , *Pestalotia guepini* var. *vaccinii* and *Phomopsis* on, in U.S.A., 30.
- , *Phyllostictina vaccinii* on, in U.S.A., 29.
- , *Phyalospora obtusa*, *P. corticis*, *Puccinias-trum goeppertianum*, and *P. myrtilli* on, in U.S.A., 30.
- , *Ramularia vaccinii* on, *Septoria difformis* apparently identical with, 30.
- , *Septoria albopunctata* on, in U.S.A., 28.
- stunt in Canada, 555.
- *australe*, *Telephora terrestris* on, in U.S.A., 245; *T. laciniata* a synonym of, 245.
- Valsa cincta* on peach in U.S.A., 569.
- *kunzei* on spruce in U.S.A., 501; *Cytospora kunzei* imperfect state of, 501.
- *leucostoma* on apricot in Hungary, 140; *Cytospora rubescens* imperfect state of, 140.
- on peach in U.S.A., 569.
- Vanilla*, *Fusarium batatatis* var. *vanillae* on, in Dominica, 464.
- , nitrogen and phosphorus deficiency in, in Puerto Rico, 256.
- Vegetable fibre gaskets, use of fungicides for preservation of, 436.
- marrow (*Cucurbita pepo*), cucumber mosaic virus on, varietal reaction to, 116.
- , *Erysiphe cichoracearum* on, in Switzerland, 158; control, 343.
- , *Hypomyces solani* f. *cucurbitae* on, in U.S.A., 307.
- , *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on, control, 343.
- Vegetables, diseases of, in U.S.S.R., 52.
- , *Fusarium* on, 250.
- , *Pythium debaryanum* and *P. graminicola* on, control, 53.
- , seed disinfection of, in U.S.A., 54.
- Venturia cerasi* on cherry in Brazil, 122.
- *inaequalis* on apple, see under Apple.
- var. *cinerascens* perfect state of *Fusicladium orbiculatum*, 257.
- [*Venturia*] *pirina* on pear, see under Pear.
- Verbena hybrida*, beet mosaic virus on, 270.
- Verdasan, use of, against *Ceratostomella paradoxa* on sugar-cane, 157, 386; sugar-cane diseases, 156.
- Verticillium*, inactivation of, 190.
- on *Acer* in U.S.A., 502.
- on coffee in Puerto Rico, 472.
- on cotton in Uganda, 474.
- on elm and maple in U.S.A., 502.
- *albo-atrum* can infect citrus, 317.
- on apricot in Hungary, 139.
- on cotton in Brazil, 100; varietal reaction to, 224.
- on cucumber, varietal reaction to, 111.
- on eggplant in Brazil, 100.
- on hops in England, 94, 584; legislation against, in England and Wales, 160; pathogenicity of, 584; varietal reaction to, 94, 296.
- on lucerne in Denmark, 410.
- on *Mentha*, specific reaction to, 356.
- on olive in Italy, 317; (?) in Sicily, 286.
- on potato in U.S.A., 119.
- on *Prunus cerasifera* in Hungary, 139.
- on strawberry, varietal reaction to, 373.
- on tobacco, varietal reaction to, 117.
- on tomato in Brazil, 100; Canada, 354; factors affecting, 111; varietal reaction to, 354.
- , toxicity of musarin to, 483; of patulin to, 83.
- *dahliae*, host range of, and immunity of cereals from, in Central Asia, 19.
- on *Chrysanthemum* in New S. Wales, 136.
- on cotton in S. Africa, 473; in U.S.S.R., 19, 475; varietal reaction to, 19, 224, 473.
- on cucumber, thermal death point of, 204; varietal reaction to, 111.
- on peach and plum in Holland, 244.
- on *Sida spinosa* in S. Africa, 473.
- on tomato, factors affecting, 111; thermal death point of, 204.
- , toxicity of musarin to, 483.
- *malthousei* on mushroom, 592.
- *psalliotiae* on mushroom, 592; in England, 110.
- Vetch (*Vicia*), bean-top necrosis virus can infect, 5.
- , *Botrytis* (?) *cinerea* on, in U.S.A., 66.
- , broad bean wilt virus can infect, 6.
- , *Cercospora zonata* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Colletotrichum trifolii* on, 125.
- , *villosum* on, in U.S.A., 66.
- , *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
- , *Erysiphe pisi* on, in Switzerland, 158.
- , *Fusarium avenaceum* var. *fabae* can infect, 551.
- , *Sclerotinia trifoliorum* on, control, 283.
- , *Thielaviopsis basicola* on, resistance to, 125.
- , *Uromyces fabae* on, in Turkey, 114.
- Vicia*, see Vetch.
- Vicia faba*, see Bean, broad.
- Vigna unguiculata*, see Cowpea.
- Vine (*Vitis*), *Alternaria* on, in Costa Rica, 461; U.S.A., 410.
- 'berry shrivel' in Queensland, 221.
- , (?) *Botryosphaeria ribis* on, in U.S.A., 409; *Macrophoma* imperfect state of, 409.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, in Queensland, 221; Switzerland, 272.
- 'brunissure', mineral contents of leaves in relation to, 216.
- , *Capnodium salicinum* on, in Spain, 114.
- , *Cercospora* on, in Costa Rica, 461.
- chlorosis, lime-induced, in France, 348.

- [Vine chlorosis], mineral contents of leaves in relation to, 216.
- , *Coniothyrium diplodiella* on, in Switzerland, 376.
- court-noué, 62; in France, 172, 348; control, 172; etiology of, 408, 409; mineral contents of leaves in relation to, 216; suggested research on, 348.
- , *Diaporthe* on, in U.S.A., 410.
- , *Elsinoe ampelina* on, in Costa Rica, 461; Turkey, 349.
- , *Erwinia vitivora* on, in S. Africa, 173.
- , *Exosporium sultanæ* on, in S. Africa, 216.
- , *Glomerella* on, in U.S.A., 410.
- , — *cingulata* on, in Costa Rica, 461.
- , *Guignardia bidwellii* on, 461; in U.S.A., 509, 574.
- , 'infectious degeneration', court-noué should be renamed, 348.
- , lucerne dwarf virus on, in U.S.A., 217.
- , *Melanconium fuliginum* on, in Costa Rica, 461; Queensland, 221; U.S.A., 409.
- , mineral contents of leaves in relation to health in, 216.
- mosaic virus in U.S.A., 355, 465.
- , nutrient deficiencies of, in Switzerland, 274.
- , *Pestalotia* on, in U.S.A., 410.
- , pests of, 123.
- , *Phakopsora vitis* on, in Costa Rica, 460.
- , *Plasmopara viticola* on, in Bulgaria, 62; Costa Rica, 460; Germany, 217; Madagascar, 80; Rumania, 311; Switzerland, 272, 436; U.S.A., 509; breeding against, 217; control, 62, 272, 407, 408, 436, 509, 553; culture of, 330; study on, 311; technique for testing fungicides against, 407; varietal reaction to, 80, 218, 460.
- , *Pseudopeziza tracheiphila* on, in Switzerland, 272.
- , *Rosellinia necatrix* on, in Italy, 508.
- , *Uncinula necator* on, in Costa Rica, 461; France, 409, 507; U.S.A., 509; breeding against, 409; control, 310, 422, 507, 509, 553; culture of, 330; varietal reaction to, 409, 507.
- Vinylacetate resin, use of, for sealing liquid mounting media, 82.
- Viola*, *Rhizoctonia aderholdii* on, in Argentina, 101.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- , *betonicifolia*, *Septoria violæ* on, in Ceylon, 197.
- , *cornuta*, celery calico virus and western cucumber mosaic virus on, in U.S.A., 323; transmission of, by aphids, 323.
- , *tricolor*, see Pansy.
- Viridin from *Trichoderma viride*, 203; toxicity of, to *Cercospora nicotianæ*, 203.
- Virus diseases in U.S.S.R., 11.
- of forest trees in Italy, 589.
- , reactions of plants to, 123.
- , susceptibility of plants to, correlation between reaction to ammonium molybdate and, 311.
- , transmission of, 330.
- , inclusions, technique for detecting, 272.
- , nomenclature, 400.
- Viruses, attenuation of, 200.
- , book on, 461.
- , effect of host plant physiology on resistance to, 490; of protein isolated from *Phytolacca esculenta* on, 508.
- , origin of, 538.
- , relationship between environment and incidence of infection in, 110.
- , separation of strains of, by specific hosts, 200.
- [Viruses], serological method of identifying, 110.
- , state of, in infected cells, 219.
- Vitamins, effect of, on growth of *Sclerotinia camelliae*, 440.
- Voandzeia subterranea*, *Cercospora canescens* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 158.
- , *Cercospora voandzeiae* and *Sphaerotheca voandzeiae* on, in Madagascar, 80.
- Volutella ciliata* var. *stipta* on chestnut in Spain, 114.
- Volvaria diplasia*, cultivation of, in India, 61.
- *esculenta*, study on, 405.
- *volvacea*, cultivation of, in Madagascar, 9.
- Vulpia bromoides* and *V. myuros*, *Ophiobolus graminis* on, in Australia, 559.
- Wallflower (*Cheiranthus cheiri*), *Corynebacterium fascians* on, in England, 462.
- , *Cystopus candidus* on, in Rumania, 542.
- , *Matthiola incana* mosaic can infect, 114.
- Walnut (*Juglans*), *Armillaria mellea* on, in Hungary, 140; U.S.A., 103, 372.
- , crown rot of, and *Dothiorella* on, in U.S.A., 103.
- , *Exosporina fawcetti* on, in U.S.A., 102, 465.
- , (?) *Phytophthora cambivora* on, in Portugal, 395.
- , *Polyporus obtusus* on, in N. America, 266.
- , *Xanthomonas juglandis* on, in U.S.A., 104, 205, 590; control, 104, 590; geographical distribution of, 96; study on, 205; transmissible lysins for, 413.
- Watermelon (*Citrullus vulgaris*), *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 344.
- , *Fusarium bulbigenum* var. *niveum* on, in U.S.A., 8, 592; breeding against, 8, 405, 592; varietal reaction to, 405, 592.
- , — — — f. 1 and 2 on, 307; control, 308.
- , *Marssonina melonis* on, in U.S.A., 60.
- , *Pythium ultimum* on, in U.S.A., 344.
- , *Sclerotium rolfsii* on, in New S. Wales, 47.
- Weed killer XI, use of, for killing potato haulms, 493.
- Wheat (*Triticum*), *Actinomyces scabies* can infect, 294.
- , *Alternaria* on, in Egypt, 231.
- , *Aspergillus candidus*, *A. flavus*, *A. glaucus*, *A. niger*, and *A. ochraceus* on, in U.S.A., 417.
- , *Botrytis cinerea* on, in England, 462.
- , *Calonectria graminicola* on, in U.S.A., 179.
- , *Cercospora herpotrichoides* on, in England, 278.
- , *Claviceps purpurea* on, 314; in Italy, 67; U.S.A., 558; U.S.S.R., 226.
- , *Colletotrichum graminicola* can infect, 526.
- , *Corticium sasakii* on, factors affecting, 447.
- , — *solani* on, 187.
- , cultivation of, in Kenya, review of work on, 68.
- , effect of chaff on germination of, and mould growth in seeds of, 277; of copper and zinc on, 517.
- , *Erysiphe graminis* on, in Sweden, 128; development of, 128; effect of excision of floral organs on susceptibility to, 68; varietal reaction to, 11.
- , *Fusarium* on, in Canada, 229.
- , — *culmorum* on, in U.S.A., 179.
- , *Gibberella fujikuroi* on, in Brazil, 100.
- , — *zeae* on, in Argentina, 413; Brazil, 122; U.S.A., 179; effect of, on yield, 413; *Fusarium graminearum* imperfect state of, 413.
- , *Helminthosporium* on, in India, 315.
- , — *gramineum* on, in Madagascar, 80.

- [Wheat, *Helminthosporium*] *sativum* on, in Canada, 229; U.S.A., 179; influence of antibiosis in pathogenicity of, 229; recovery following initial stunting in, 316; varietal reaction to, 11.
- , — *tritici-vulgaris* on, in Japan and U.S.A., 10.
- , *Leptosphaeria avenaria* f. sp. *triticea* on, in Canada, 230; *Septoria avenae* f. sp. *triticea* imperfect state of, 230.
- , — *nigrans* on, in England, 462.
- , maize streak virus on, in S. Africa, 351.
- , mosaic virus, breeding against, 128.
- , moulds on stored, control, 147.
- , *Mucor* on, in U.S.A., 417.
- , *Neovossia indica* on, in India, 315.
- , *Nigrospora oryzae* on, in Turkey, 350.
- , *Ophiobolus graminis* on, 123, 559; in Australia, 14, 180; Canberra, 221; England, 278; U.S.A., 179; factors affecting, 14, 180, 221; pathogenicity of, 316; study on, 14.
- , *Penicillium* on, in U.S.A., 417.
- , *Puccinia* on, in Argentina, 67; Iran, 227.
- , — *dispersa* on, in Spain, 114.
- , — *glumarum* on, in Bulgaria, 376; India, 314, 358; Iran, 227; Kenya, 68, 312; Madagascar, 80; Turkey, 114; effect of, on yield, 314; factors affecting, 312; morphology of, 518; physiology of, 490; physiologic races of, 312, 376; varietal reaction to, 114, 312.
- , — *graminis* on, in Australia, 517; the Belgian Congo, 123; Canada, 553; Cyprus, 556; Egypt, 357; India, 314, 315, 358; Iran, 227; Kenya, 68, 312; Madagascar, 80; Mexico, 278; Queensland, 69; S. Australia, 12; Tanganyika Territory, 353; Turkey, 114; U.S.A., 64; U.S.S.R., 226; breeding against, 12; control, 358; effect of, on yield, 314; factors affecting, 12, 357; genetics of, 12; over-summering and over-wintering of, 11; physiologic races of, 312; varietal reaction to, 11, 12, 69, 123, 126, 221, 226, 278, 312, 313, 353, 357, 358, 490, 517, 553.
- , — *triticea* on, 517; in Canada, 467, 554; China, 128; India, 314, 358; Kenya, 68; Madagascar, 80; Mexico, 277; Queensland, 69; S. Australia, 559; Switzerland, 220; Tanganyika Territory, 224; U.S.A., 120, 358; U.S.S.R., 11; breeding against, 12, 128; control, 467; effect of, on yield, 314, 467; factors affecting, 11; forecasting outbreaks of, 358; genetics of, 12; morphology of, 518; over-summering and over-wintering of, 11; physiologic races of, 120, 128; physiology of, 490; varietal reaction to, 11, 69, 120, 126, 128, 221, 226, 278, 312, 313, 358, 554, 559.
- , *Pythium* on, varietal reaction to, 11.
- , — *arrhenomanes* on, recovery following initial stunting in, 316.
- , rosette mosaic virus, breeding against, 120.
- , *Sclerospora macrospora* on, in U.S.A., 13.
- , (?) *Sclerotinia graminearum* on, in U.S.S.R., 227.
- , *Scotlecotrichum graminis* on, in Argentina, 257.
- , *Septoria nodorum* on, in Argentina, 413.
- , — *tritici* on, in Argentina, 413; Turkey, 349; U.S.A., 13; culture of, 349.
- , *Tilletia* on, in Italy, 560; technique for determining spore loads in, 315.
- , — *caries* on, 468; in Argentina, 560; France, 358; Great Britain, 127; India, 315; Italy, 415, 484; Rumania, 415, 468; Turkey, 115; U.S.S.R., 11; antagonism between a form of *T. foetida* and, 12; breeding against, 228; control, 358, 415; effect of, on yield, 315; effect of temperature on spore germination in, 416; incidence of infection in, 127; physiologic races of, 228; varietal reaction to, 11, 226, 228, 511, 560.
- [Wheat, *Tilletia*] *foetida* on, 468; in Argentina, 560; India, 315; Italy, 415, 484; Rumania, 415, 468; Turkey, 115; antagonism between form of *T. caries* and, 12; breeding against, 228; control, 415; effect of, on yield, 315; physiologic races of, 228; varietal reaction to, 11, 69, 228, 511, 560.
- , — *intermedia* on, in Italy, 415; Rumania, 415, 468.
- , — *triticoideis* on, in Italy, 415; Rumania, 415, 468.
- , *Thyphula itoana* on, in U.S.S.R., 226.
- , *Urocystis tritici* on, 468; in Greece, 95; India, 315; Turkey, 115; U.S.S.R., 11; effect of, on yield, 315; legislation against, in Persia, 352; varietal reaction to, 358, 559.
- , *Ustilago tritici* on, 468; in Canada, 554; India, 315; Madagascar, 80; Turkey, 115; U.S.A., 227, 313; U.S.S.R., 13; breeding against, 128; control, 13; effect of, on yield, 315; losses caused by, 313; physiologic races of, 227; varietal reaction to, 11, 128, 226, 313, 554, 559.
- , *Xanthomonas translucens* var. *undulosum* on, in U.S.S.R., 11; varietal reaction to, 11.
- Willia* on dates, figs, and prunes, 251.
- Winter aconite, see *Eranthis hyemalis*.
- Withania somnifera*, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- Wojnowicia graminis* on cereals in Morocco, 557; U.S.A., 180.
- Wood pulp, *Bacterium* on, production of fungicidal substance by, 105.
- Xanthomonas*, species value of pathogenicity in the genus, 413.
- , taxonomy of, 512.
- , *albilineans* on sugar-cane in Hawaii, 495; Queensland, 384, 497; effect of, on yield, 497; varietal reaction to, 96, 495, 497.
- , — synonym of *Agrobacterium albilineans*, 513.
- , *campestris* on broccoli and Brussels sprouts, control, 343.
- , — on cabbage in Queensland, 221, 399; Trinidad, 223; U.S.A., 175, 402; control, 223, 343, 399, 402; factors affecting, 221; geographical distribution of, 96.
- , — on cauliflower in Queensland, 399; control, 343, 399.
- , — on crucifers, geographical distribution of, 96.
- , — on turnip, control, 343.
- , —, serological study on, 276.
- , —, toxicity of *Streptomyces* 105 to, 356.
- , *carotae* on carrot in U.S.A., 506.
- , *citri* on citrus in (?) Madagascar, 81; legislation against, in Persia, 352.
- , — on Rutaceae, legislation against, in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S.A., 352.
- , *geranii*, serology of, 277.
- , *hederae*, serology of, 276.
- , *incanae* on *Matthiola incana* in New S. Wales, control, 275; serology of, 276.
- , *juglandis* on walnut in U.S.A., 104, 205, 590; control, 104, 590; geographical distribution of, 96; study on, 205; transmissible lysins for, 413.
- , *malvacearum* on cotton, see under Cotton.
- , —, serology, 277.
- , *papavericola*, serology of, 276.

- [*Xanthomonas*] *pelargonii*, serology of, 277.
 — *phaseoli*, inactivation of, 189.
 — on bean in Brazil, 122; Yugoslavia, 6; control, 591.
 —, serology of, 276.
 — var. *fuscans* on bean in U.S.A., 510.
 — var. *sojense* on soy-bean in U.S.A., 7.
 — *pruni* on plum in New Zealand, 116; Queensland, 189; transmissible lysins for, 413.
 — *rubrilineans* on sugar-cane in Queensland, 385.
 — *solanacearum* on *Amaranthus graecicans* and *Crotalaria juncea* in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
 — on eggplant in Malaya, 464.
 — on groundnut in S. Africa, 172.
 — on potato in Java, 35; Southern Rhodesia, 117; Tanganyika Territory, 224, 353; Victoria, 491; breeding against, 35; control, 35; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 35, 491.
 — on *Ricinus communis* in Formosa, 450.
 — on *Solanum*, resistance to, 35.
 — on tobacco in Southern Rhodesia, 117; U.S.A., 390; breeding against, 264; geographical distribution of, 96; varietal reaction to, 47, 118, 264, 390.
 — on tomato in Queensland, 399; Southern Rhodesia, 117; Tanganyika Territory, 353; control, 223; factors affecting, 223; geographical distribution of, 96.
 — synonym of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*, 513.
 — *stewartii*, mutation in, 225.
 — on maize in Italy and U.S.A., 70; transmission of, by *Chaetocnema pulicaria*, 70.
 — synonym of *Pseudomonas stewartii*, 513.
 —, transmissible lysins for, 413.
 — *taraxaci*, serology of, 276.
 — *translucens*, antagonism of *Bacillus subtilis* to, 357.
 — var. *phlei-pratensis* on *Phleum pratense* in U.S.A., 528.
 — var. *undulosum* on wheat in U.S.S.R., 11; varietal reaction to, 11.
 — *vasculorum* on coco-nut and *Dictyosperma album*, 234.
 — on Royal palm in Mauritius, 234; variation in, 234.
 — on sugar-cane, 234; in Queensland, 384; varietal reaction to, 96.
 — on *Thysanolaena agrostis*, 234.
 —, serological study on, 276.
 — *vesicatoria* on chilli in Rumania, 274.
 — on tomato in Queensland, 391; U.S.A., 313.
 —, serology of, 276.
Xyleborus affinis transmitting *Diplodia recifensis*, 77.
 — *fornicatus* on tea in Ceylon, 70.
Xylobotryum coralloides on timber in mines in Southern Rhodesia, 117.
- Yeasts, in food, 250.
 — preservation of cultures of, 81.
 —, technique for classifying, 47.
 Youngberry (*Rubus* sp.), magnesium deficiency in, in S. Africa, 140.
- Zantedeschia ethiopica*, *Coniothecium richardiae* on, in Argentina, 237; *Phoma richardiae* and *Phyllosticta richardiae* synonyms of, 238.
 —, *Corticium solani* on, in England, 111.
 —, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
- Zea mays*, see Maize.
 Zerlate injury to apple, 510; potato and tomato, 39.
 —, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 89; on tomato, 165, 174; *Botrytis tulipae* on tulip, 512; *Cladosporium fulvum* on tomato, 165, 174; *Colletotrichum phomoides* on tomato, 165, 174, 466; *Phytophthora infestans* on potato, 89, 195, 254; on tomato, 165; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber, 8; *Sclerotinia fructicola* on peach, 139, 510, 569; tomato diseases, 435; *Venturia inaequalis*, 510; *V. pirina*, 573; as a seed treatment for flax and hemp, 421.
 Zinc in relation to iron deficiency, 336; to plant nutrition, 42.
 —, toxicity of, to flax, 21.
 — chloride, use of, against *Macrophoma kuwatsukaii* on apple, 242; as a timber preservative, 209.
 — compounds injury to cherry, 510.
 — coposil, use of, against *Clasterosporium carpophilum* on peach, 76.
 — deficiency in apple in Denmark, 424; Holland, 337, 424; Switzerland, 424; U.S.A., 511; cherry in Holland, 337, 424; flax in Western Australia, 565; fruit trees in U.S.A., 424; Victoria, 568; pear in Holland, 337, 424; U.S.A., 511; (?) tobacco in Italy, 201; tomato, 452.
 — dimethyl dithiocarbamate, use of, against moulds on felt, 147; on vegetable fibre gaskets, 436; *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408; *Pseudopeziza ribis* on currants, 371.
 — ethylene bisdithiocarbamate injury to potato, 39.
 — —, use of, against *Stemphylium* on *Gladious*, 566.
 — lime-arsenic compounds, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 326.
 — mercaptobenzthiazole, use of, against *Plasmopara brassicae* on cabbage, 213.
 — naphthenate, use of, as a timber preservative, 547; in rot-proofing textiles, 84.
 — nitrodithioacetate, use of, against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 581.
 — oxide, use of, against *Actinomyces scabies* on potato, 37, 193; *Corticium solani* on potato, 37, 193; damping-off of seedlings, 204; *Penicillium* on potato, 152; as a seed treatment for chilli, eggplant, spinach, and tomato, 54.
 — phenyldithiocarbamate injury to vine, 408.
 — —, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
 — sulphate, effect of, on fungistatic properties of 8-hydroxyquinoline, 484.
 — —, use of, against *Curcularia* (?) *lunata* on *Gladious*, 525; peach X-disease virus, 532; *Phytophthora phaseoli* on *Phaseolus lunatus*, 214; zinc deficiency in apple, 337, 511; cherry, 337; flax, 566; pear, 337, 511; for preparing colloidal sulphur, 32; with dithane, 247; against *Alternaria solani* on potato, 331; with lime-sulphur against *Erysiphe polygoni* on bean, 248; *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* on cucumber and hops, 248; *Puccinia antirrhini* on *Antirrhinum majus*, 248; *Uromyces appendiculatus* on bean, 248.
 — xylidithiocarbamate, use of, against *Plasmopara viticola* on vine, 408.
Zinnia elegans, *Alternaria sonchii* on, in Brazil, 100.
 — —, beet mosaic virus on, 270.

- [*Zinnia elegans*], *Cercospora atricincta* on, in Tanganyika Territory, 353.
 —, *Corticium solani* on, in U.S.A., 346; transmission of, by seed, 346.
 —, cucumber mosaic virus can infect, 282.
 —, mycorrhiza of, in Egypt, 290.
Zizania aquatica, *Claviceps purpurea* on, in Canada, 314.
Zostera marina, increase of, in U.S.A., 191.
 —, (?) *Labyrinthula macrocystis* on, in U.S.A., 191.
Zygorrhynchus moelleri on cotton textiles, 486.
Zygosaccharomyces on dates, figs, honey, maple syrup, and prunes, 251.
Zythia fragariae on *Geum* in England, 462.
 Z-78, use of, against *Venturia inaequalis*, 510.

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Afanasiev, 1, 3 | Fraser, 11 | Lochhead, 41 | Skinner, 46 |
| Akeley, 34, 37 | Frear, 32 | Lott, 28 | Sleesman, 31 |
| Asthana, 18 | Fricke, 17 | Louw, 25 | Slooff, 44 |
| Atkin, 47 | Gaskill, 2 | Macdonald, 32 | Soloveva, 19 |
| Baker, 23 | Gerloff, 40 | Magee, 21, 47 | Soukhov, 48 |
| Bald, 37 | Gilliver, 25 | Marloth, 30 | Stanton, 15 |
| Bamberg, 12 | Gilman, 17 | Mason, 32 | Starr, 38, 39 |
| Bawden, 22 | Gorlenko, 10 | Meehan, 16 | Stevenson, 34, 37 |
| Berger, 40 | Graff, 45 | Miller, 9, 10 | Stewart, 1 |
| Black, 24 | Grafius, 12 | Millikan, 21 | Stief, 41 |
| Blackie, 9 | Hamilton, 16 | Millington, 12 | Stubbs, 5 |
| Bockstahler, 3, 4 | Harris, 34 | Moreau (C.), 46 | Sukhov, 17, 48 |
| Bondartzev, 36 | Harvey, 20 | Moreau (M.), 46 | Swenson, 12 |
| Bondartzeva-Monte-
verde, 36, 37 | Hassan, 4 | Morris, 1, 3 | Techitch, 6 |
| Bonde, 37 | Henderson, 3 | Morwood, 18 | Thexton, 41 |
| Bouriquet, 9 | Heuberger, 7 | Murphy, 16 | Thomas, 12 |
| Bouthilet, 46 | Hirschhorn, 45 | Nagel, 17 | Thung, 35, 44 |
| Boyle, 41 | Hodgson, 31 | Newhook, 19 | Tims, 7 |
| Braun, 10 | Holton, 12 | Nickell, 41 | Tolhurst, 43 |
| Brewbaker, 2 | Hutton, 27 | Nikolaeva, 9 | Tyler, 13 |
| Broadfoot, 16 | Isaksson, 2 | Nusbaum, 8 | Tysdal, 24 |
| Buchholtz, 12 | Ivanoff, 8 | Patel, 43 | Uppal, 43 |
| Burkholder, 41 | Jenkins, 32 | [Pentzer], 25 | Vanterpool, 21 |
| Bush, 2 | Jensen, 13 | Peterson, 36 | Vovk, 17, 48 |
| Cass Smith, 20 | Josserand, 33 | Piane, 46 | Waksman, 41 |
| Christie, 22 | Kamat, 43 | Polyarkova, 19 | Weimer, 6 |
| Christoff, 27, 32 | Kassanis, 22 | Powell, 32 | White, 14 |
| Clayton, 47 | Kent, 13 | Raper, 33 | Wiebe, 15 |
| Coons, 4 | [Khrstov], 27, 32 | Reitsma, 44 | Wiehe, 44 |
| Cox, 4 | Knorr, 38 | Rhoads, 23 | Wilcox, 28 |
| Critopoulos, 11 | Kotila, 4 | Rodenhisier, 12 | Wilkinson, 42 |
| Darrow, 28 | Kreibohm de la
Vega, 44 | Rodriguez Lan-
daeta, 41 | Wilson (J. D.), 31,
39 |
| Demaree, 28 | Kreutzer, 2 | Rozendaal, 33 | Wilson (R. D.), 34 |
| Downie, 2 | Lasser, 41 | Sabourova, 11 | Wolf, 23 |
| Drosdoff, 42 | Leach, 3 | Samuel, 12 | Wood, 9 |
| Dutky, 19 | Le Beau, 5 | Schuk, 13 | Woodward, 12 |
| Epps, 8 | Lehman, 7 | Schultz, 47 | Wright, 39 |
| Evreinoff, 25 | Lindquist, 45 | Semeniuk, 17 | Yossifovitch, 26 |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|---|--|
| Antibiotics, 25, 33, 41 | Sugar-cane, 9, 44-45 |
| Bacteria, 6, 7, 10, 11, 19, 24, 26, 35, 37-39,
41-42 | Textiles, 41 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Tobacco, 6, 22, 40, 47-48 |
| Apple, 25-26, 47 | Tomato, 6, 9, 31, 34, 39, 47, 48 |
| Banana, 9, 22 | Trees and timber, 45 |
| Cereals, 4, 9, 10-18, 19 | Vegetables, 4-9, 10, 22, 31, 32, 41, 47,
48 |
| Citrus, 47 | Fungicides, 7, 22, 31-32, 38, 39, 41 |
| Cotton, 19 | General publications, 33, 46 |
| Fibre plants, 19-21 | Genetics, 10, 12, 23, 35, 37-38 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 6, 9, 22-23,
25, 40, 45, 47 | Industrial and officinal fungi, 17, 25, 41, 46 |
| Fruit, 8, 25-31, 47 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 32, 45 |
| Groundnut, 10 | Mushrooms, 9 |
| Herbage crops, 3, 4, 6, 10, 19, 24-25 | Mycorrhiza and symbiosis, 33, 41 |
| Hops, 42-43 | Physiology, 16 |
| Insects, 19 | Reports from Fiji, 9; Germany, 9; U.S.A., 9,
10; U.S.S.R., 10 |
| Man, 24 | Soils and fertilizers, 1-4, 11, 14-15, 17, 21,
22, 36, 40, 41-42, 43, 47 |
| Officinal plants, 44 | Systematic mycology, 45-47 |
| Potato, 8, 9, 31, 32, 33-40, 47, 48 | Technique, 19, 32, 34, 42, 46-47 |
| Rice, 9 | Virus diseases, 1, 5-6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 21-22,
24, 27, 28, 33-34, 42-43, 44-45, 48 |
| Rubber, 23, 41 | |
| Spices, 43 | |
| Sugar beet, 1-4 | |

VOL. XXVII. PART 2

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Apostolides, 69 | Garren, 60 | Luttrell, 55 | Pomerleau, 50 |
| Asthana, 61 | Goidanich, 70, 85 | MacDonald, 81 | Porter (R. H.), 53 |
| Barghoorn, 82 | Grainger, 68 | Mader, 92 | Porter (R. P.), 59 |
| Batista, 77 | Gray, 83 | Magee, 76 | Ramamoorthy, 91 |
| Bean, 90 | Groves, 74 | Maire, 95 | Reddick, 88 |
| Beaumont, 88 | Gutzevitch, 52 | Manil, 93 | Roberts, 74 |
| Beijer, 72 | Hansbrough, 50 | Martin (G. W.), 83 | Ruchle, 89 |
| Bhagwagar, 89 | Harris, 69 | Martin (J. P.), 95 | Ruggieri, 70 |
| Blodgett, 91 | Harrison, 49 | Martin (W. J.), 92 | Sleesman, 89 |
| Bogges, 51 | Hart, 76 | Matsumoto, 82 | Smith, 83 |
| Bondartzev, 57 | Hartley, 52 | McKay, 74 | Soutter, 69 |
| Bouriquet, 79 | Hemming, 83 | Mezzetti, 85 | Staniland, 52 |
| Brian, 83 | Henry, 81 | Middelhoeck, 71 | Stanton, 49 |
| Brien, 84 | Hewitt, 93 | Miller, 55 | Starr, 91 |
| Brooks, 53 | Higgins, 60 | Moore (H. C.), 88 | Stevenson, 85 |
| Carrera, 73 | Hildebrand, 55 | Moore (W. C.), 78 | Stoeff, 62 |
| Cartwright, 52 | Holmes, 51 | Morris, 82 | Stout, 50 |
| Chowdhury, 94, 95 | Horovitz, 67 | Müller, 90 | Stuart, 57 |
| Cialzeta, 67 | Hugh Smith, 75 | Munro, 56 | Sylvester, 54 |
| Ciccarone, 68 | Illia, 67 | Myers, 54 | Thaysen, 82 |
| Conn, 66 | Jardim Freire, 77 | Nedelt[s]cheff, 62 | Tisdale, 53 |
| Cook, 59 | Jones, 67 | Newman, 51 | Tolaass, 88 |
| Cronshey, 59 | Keyworth, 94 | Nicholas, 49 | Townsend, 53 |
| Dillon Weston, 59 | Koch, 55 | Nichols, 63 | Varada Rajan, 71 |
| Dingley, 84 | Kondareff, 62 | Nielsen, 91 | Vasudeva, 91 |
| Dolan, 59 | Krantz, 88 | Nugent, 59 | Verona, 94 |
| Etchecopar, 67 | Kugler, 67 | Ogilvie, 56 | Walker, 58 |
| Findlay, 52 | Kuntz, 58 | Padmanabhan, 71 | Walter, 50 |
| Folsom, 92 | Landau, 74 | Parris, 59 | Werner, 88 |
| Forlani, 67 | Leaver, 61 | Patel, 71 | Wilson (E. E.), 75 |
| Foucault, 67 | Lemos, 67 | Petrak, 74 | Wilson (J. D.), 49 |
| Furry, 84 | Lewis, 51 | Phaff, 75 | Wilson (J. W.), 89 |
| Gadd, 70 | Littman, 82 | Pizer, 61 | Yarwood, 72 |
| Gallay, 62 | Loos, 70 | Politis, 95 | Zaumeyer, 56 |
| Garofalo, 68 | | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|---|---|
| Antibiotics, 83 | Potato, 52, 80, 85-92, 93, 95, 96 |
| Bacteria, 64, 66-67, 70, 76, 81, 86, 90, 95, 96 | Rice, 95 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Rubber, 92 |
| Apple, 65, 74, 80, 96 | Spices, 94, 95 |
| Banana, 76, 96 | Textiles, 83-84 |
| Cacao, 80 | Tobacco, 64, 80, 96 |
| Cereals, 64, 67-70, 80, 81, 95 | Tomato, 49, 52, 81, 96 |
| Citrus, 70, 81, 96 | Trees and timber, 50-52, 63, 64, 80, 96 |
| Coffee, 79, 81 | Vegetables, 58-61, 63, 65, 66, 79-81, 93, 95, 96 |
| Cotton, 66, 95 | Vine, 62, 80 |
| Fibre plants, 67, 71 | Legislation, 96 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 72-74, 80, 81, 93, 95 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 78, 95 |
| Fruit, 63, 65, 67, 74-77, 81, 96 | Physiology, 85, 95 |
| Groundnut, 60, 66, 80 | Reports from Amami, 63; Georgia, 65; Kentucky, 64; U.S.A., 63 |
| Herbage crops, 86, 96 | Serology, 82 |
| Hops, 94 | Soils and fertilizers, 49, 69, 74, 92-94, 95 |
| Insects, 71 | Technique, 81, 82 |
| Mushrooms, 61 | Virus diseases (50), 52, 54, 57, 58, 62, 63, 64, 79, 81, 82, 86, 91, 95, 96 |
| Official plants, 53 | |
| Pineapple, 96 | |

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- Allington, 107
 Anderson, 142
 Asthana, 134
 Atkins, 109
 Balakrishnan, 159
 Baltazar, 133
 Bardin, 108
 Bartz, 146
 Batista, 134
 Berk, 147
 Bertelli, 130
 Billings, 104
 Biraghi, 104
 Björling, 128
 Black, 151
 Booi, 110
 Boyce, 132
 Bremer, 114
 Brett, 127
 Brian, 145
 Broadfoot, 152
 Burkholder (C. L.), 139
 Burkholder (P. R.), 146
 Cadman, 141
 Calavan, 129
 Caldwell, 123
 Cavill, 143
 Cendaña, 133
 Chasmukhin, 104
 Choudhri, 143
 Christensen, 146, 147
 Compton, 128
 Cooley, 137
 Cordón, 148
 Costa Neto, 122
 Couceiro, 134
 Cross, 99
 Curtis, 145
 Dastur, 144
 Davidson, 133
 Decker, 133
 De Montgremier, 149
 Dickson, 136, 144
 Drechsler, 159
 Eastham, 127
 Eddins, 152
 Ehrlich, 146
 Evans, 156
 Fawcett, 129, 132
 Findlay, 99
 Fisher, 137
 Foster (A. A.), 152
 Foster (J. W.), 148
 Fong, 108
 Forbes, 98
 Fujimoto, 154
 Geddes, 146, 147
 Gould, 134
 Grossbard, 111
 H—, 131
 Hansing, 133
 Hartigan, 105
 Hemming, 145
 Herren, 149
 Hervey, 107
 Hewitt, 128
 Hill, 141
 Hilton, 138
 Hodges, 145
 Hopkins, 117
 Hurd-Karrer, 127
 Husz, 139
 Hutchinson, 145
 Isaac, 105
 Ismen, 114
 Jenkins, 155
 Joslyn, 146
 Karel, 114
 Knowles, 126
 Koblet, 153
 Laufer, 107
 Lear, 155
 Limasset, 149
 Ling, 159
 Louw, 137, 138
 Mai, 150
 Malkiel, 160
 Marchionatto, 101
 Mariat, 135
 Martin, 97
 Mayor, 158
 [McMartin], 157
 Mehta, 110
 Meneghini, 130
 Miller, 104
 Milner, 146, 147
 Moreira, 130
 Mumenthaler, 102
 Muncie, 109
 Mundkur, 110
 Olmo, 130
 Owen, 111
 Özkan (H.), 114
 Özkan (M.), 114
 P[arham], 160
 Pearse, 140
 Peet, 140
 Pehrson, 105
 Petch, 101
 Peterson, 151
 Petrak, 99
 Piard-Douchez, 151
 Presley, 107
 Price, 107
 Ramakrishnan, 159
 Read, 111
 Reddick, 151
 Reitz, 133
 Rhoads, 105
 Rodenhiser, 127
 Roland, 106
 Romano, 147
 Rossetti, 129
 Saint, 157
 Salzmänn, 152
 Sarojini, 155
 Savile, 100
 Schneider, 132
 Schroeder, 107
 Schwalb, 149
 Selman, 102, 110, 111
 Semsroth, 149
 Sharville, 139
 Sheard, 111
 Sherman, 154
 Singh, 154
 Smith (C. O.), 139
 Smith (R. M.), 146
 Soumini, 159
 Spangenberg, 133
 Sprague, 136
 Stanley, 160
 Stark, 155
 Stelzner, 149
 Sueda, 132
 Taylor, 140
 Terra, 131
 Thirumalachar, 100, 136
 Thomas, 159
 Tocchetto, 154
 Uribe Arango, 132
 Valleau, 101
 Venkatarayan, 144
 Viégas, 100
 Vincent, 142, 143
 Wager (H. G.), 153
 Wager (V. A.), 144
 Wallace (G. B.), 158
 Wallace (Maud M.), 158
 Wang, 128
 Wei, 159
 Whitehead, 140
 Wild, 108
 Wildman, 145
 Williams, 111
 Wilska, 145
 Wilson (E. E.), 102
 Wilson (J. K.), 143
 Wood, 140
 Wright, 105
 Yarwood, 148
 Yogeswari, 155
 Zogg, 155

SUBJECT INDEX

- Antagonism, 145
 Antibiotics, 113, 145-146
 Bacteria, 104, 105, 109, 111, 116-119, 121, 123, 124, 135, 138, 152, 160
 Culture collections, 144
 Diseases and disorders of:
 Apple, 115, 116, 137-138
 Banana, 122
 Cereals, 114, 116, 119, 120, 123, 126, 127-128, 136, 146-147
 Citrus, 115, 116, 122, 128-132
 Coffee, 132
 Cotton, 122
 Fibre plants, 117, 126, 133-134
 Flowers and ornamentals, 111, 113, 114, 126, 134-136, 160
 Fruit, 116, 117, 122, 123, 125, 137-142
 Herbage crops, 114, 116, 121, 123, 125, 126, 136
 Hops, 160
 Insects, 132-133
 Leather, 148
 Mushrooms, 109, 111
 Official plants, 120, 123, 124, 155
 Optical instruments, 145
 Pineapple, 142
 Potato, 117-119, 121-124, 149-153
 Rice, 154
 Rubber, 123
 Sugar beet, 106
 Sugar-cane, 97-98, 118, 156-157
 Textiles, &c., 116, 147
 Tobacco, 101, 117, 118, 124, 160
 Tomato, 102, 111, 112, 116-120
 Trees and timber, 102-106, 113, 117, 154
 Vegetables, 106-110, 111, 114, 116-118, 123, 124, 126, 127, 134
 Vine, 114, 123
 Fungicides, 121, 123, 142-143
 General publications, 123, 144
 Legislation, 160
 Lists of fungi or diseases, 100, 114, 122, 158-159
 Physiology, 148
 Reports from Belgian Congo, 122; Cheshunt, 111; Florida, 125; Idaho, 118; Indiana, 119; Maryland, 122; New Zealand, 115, 116; Portugal, 113; Southern Rhodesia, 117
 Soils and fertilizers, 110, 111-113, 115-118, 123, 140, 154-155
 Systematic mycology, 99-101, 128, 159
 Technique, 99
 Virus diseases, 97-98, 101, 106, 107, 110, 112-114, 116, 118, 120, 123, 126, 128, 129, 130-132, 134, 136, 140, 141, 149, 150, 157, 160

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CONTENTS

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|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Algera, 20) | Dillon Weston, 168, | Lowe, 195 | Sellschop, 171 |
| Angell, 180 | 182 | Macdonald, 207 | Smith, 167 |
| Ark, 189 | Down, 182 | Macfarlane, 173 | Snieszko, 195 |
| Balakrishnan, 172 | Dunklee, 196 | Malkiel, 161 | Sprague, 187 |
| Bald, 192, 193 | Earnshaw, 182 | Marchionatto, 186 | Stanley, 161 |
| Bates, 199 | Esbo, 192 | Matsumoto, 162, 201 | Stanton, 180 |
| Batisse, 172 | Forsberg, 169 | Meiners, 187 | Stoa, 185 |
| Batista, 185 | Foster, 167, 169 | Midgley, 196 | Takahashi, 162 |
| Baxter (D. V.), 166, | Frezzi, 204 | Miller, 165, 205 | Taylor, 168 |
| 167, 206 | Futral, 171 | Moreau, 197 | Thayer, 182 |
| Beale, 202 | Garren, 171 | Morwood, 189 | Thung, 200 |
| Berkeley, 187 | Garrett, 182 | Mostafa, 188 | Tubbs, 197, 198, |
| Binkley, 169 | Gaughran, 177 | Motte, 196 | 199 |
| Bollen, 205 | Gertz, 206 | Murphy, 181 | Urquijo Landaluze, |
| Bond, 196 | Greer, 170 | Musgrave, 191 | 165 |
| Borg, 208 | Harrison, 164 | Neal, 185 | Van der Kiste, 199 |
| Boudru, 205 | Henry, 165 | Nel, 196 | Van der Laan, 202 |
| Boughey, 183, 184, | Hewitt, 195 | Noël, 177 | Van der Want, 200 |
| 190 | Higgins, 171 | Nord, 167 | Van Koot, 204 |
| Brown, 193 | Hopkins, 199 | Öblom, 191 | Vasudeva, 203 |
| Buchwald, 186 | Hull, 169 | Oster, 161, 162 | Vitucci, 167 |
| Buddin, 182 | Jakob, 195 | Oswald, 179 | Wager, 185 |
| Calavan, 183 | Johnson, 200 | Posnette, 178, 179 | Wallace (G. B.), 163 |
| Callbeck, 194 | Kipps, 188 | Reed, 180 | Wallace (T.), 195 |
| Carpenter, 195 | Knight, 161, 162 | Reynolds, 186 | Watson, 169 |
| Crandall, 164 | Kramer, 203 | Riker, 165 | Went, 166 |
| Cronshey, 168, 170 | Lagercrantz, 190 | Roland, 187 | Wenzl, 189, 208 |
| Crowdy, 179 | Large, 182 | Roll-Hansen, 206 | Wiertz, 204 |
| De Bruyn, 194 | Le Beau, 186 | Sam Raj, 203 | Wikén, 191 |
| Delgado Montoya, | Litzenberger, 181 | Sauer, 203 | Wilds, 180 |
| 192 | Locquin (M.), 192 | Scaramuzzi, 201 | Williams, 191 |
| De Ropp, 178 | Locquin (Mme), 192 | Schmidt, 192 | Wilson, 170 |
| Dexter, 191 | Lojkin, 202 | Schroeder, 164 | Wolf, 163 |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|--|--|
| Antibiotics, 191-192, 202 | Sugar beet, 169, 208 |
| Bacteria, 166, 171, 173, 175, 177, 183, 189, | Tea, 197-199 |
| 190, 199 | Tobacco, 161-163, 175, 199, 200-202 |
| Climate and plant diseases, 190 | Tomato, 164, 174, 197, 200, 203-204 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Trees and timber, 165-167, 175, 197, |
| Apple, 173-175, 196 | 204-208 |
| Cacao, 178-179 | Vegetables, 167-172, 175-176, 185, |
| Cereals, 175, 179-182, 187 | 187, 196-197, 200, 204 |
| Citrus, 183 | Vine, 172-173 |
| Cotton, 176, 183-185 | Fungicides, 189 |
| Eel-grass, 191 | Legislation, 208 |
| Fibre plants, 185 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 196 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 186-187, | Mycorrhiza, 192 |
| 197, 208 | Physiology, 167, 191 |
| Fruit, 173-176, 188-189 | Reports from Louisiana, 175; New York, |
| Groundnut, 170-171 | 173; Pennsylvania, 175 |
| Herbage crops, 187-188, 196-197 | Soils and fertilizers, 169, 180, 188, 195, |
| Hops, 174 | 196, 204 |
| Leather, 191 | Technique, 190-191, 195 |
| Pineapple, 208 | Virus diseases, 161-163, 169, 175, 176, 178- |
| Potato, 175-176, 192-195, 196 | 179, 183, 184, 186-187, 189, 192, |
| Rice, 176, 196 | 200-203 |

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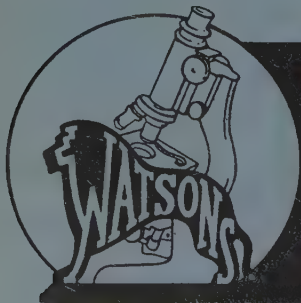
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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Abrams, 251 | Du Plessis, 216 | Loughnane, 211, 235 | Sanford, 254 |
| Aggéry, 236 | El-Helaly, 231 | Mains, 235 | Scherz, 217 |
| Ainsworth, 253 | Elrod, 225 | Malowany, 255 | Simmonds (J. H.), 221 |
| Allison, 212 | Esfandiari, 227 | Manns, 215 | Simmonds (P. M.), 229 |
| Andersen, 232 | Favard, 241 | Manowitz, 251 | Slagg, 228 |
| Army, 231 | Fellows, 228 | Marsden, 253 | Slykhuis, 241 |
| Atkins, 216 | Fischer, 231, 240 | Martin, 223 | Smith, 253 |
| Baker, 239 | Garcia, 236 | Martin, 253 | Smoyer, 233 |
| Bever, 227 | Gaumann, 240 | Martinez, 215 | Spilsbury, 253 |
| Biraghi, 245 | Giddings, 235 | Maume, 216 | Stansly, 250 |
| Black, 239 | Good, 236 | McElhanney, 209 | Stewart, 233 |
| Bloy, 247 | Gould, 238 | McKay, 211, 235 | Thirumalachar, 240 |
| Borchers, 252 | Gray, 253 | Modlibowska, 245 | Tocchetto, 215 |
| Brown, 253 | Harris, 246 | Mondain-Monval, 247 | Tompkins, 238 |
| Bumgardner, 233 | Hashioka, 255 | Moore, 243 | Tucker, 238 |
| Calavan, 232 | Henry, 213 | Mourashkinsky, 226 | Van der Plank, 218 |
| Celino, 236 | Hervy, 252 | Muir, 222 | Van Dillewijn, 256 |
| Charles, 251 | Hewitt, 217 | Newton, 255 | Van Koot, 244 |
| Chowdhury, 245 | Holton, 228 | Nicolas, 236 | Venkatarayan, 216 |
| Clarke, 235 | Huber, 238 | Ocfemia, 236 | Vicklund, 251 |
| Clinch, 211 | Hutton, 246 | Orian, 234 | Vincent, 247 |
| Colin-Russ, 252 | Jauch, 237 | Pady, 248 | Wade, 249 |
| Conn, 225 | Johnson, 230 | Peltier, 252 | Walker, 212 |
| Conner, 250 | Kanagy, 251 | Phillips, 247 | Wallace, 224 |
| Corner, 249 | Kassanis, 214 | Pijper, 225 | Wedberg, 235 |
| Crandall, 255 | Kelly, 248 | Pirie, 219 | Wellner, 210 |
| Cunningham, 214 | Klotz, 233 | Plakidas, 215 | Wenzl, 212 |
| Davidson, 254 | Kozhevnikova, 226 | Polunin, 248 | White, 232 |
| De Carvalho, 247 | Kreizinger, 240 | Prendergast, 251 | Wikén, 211 |
| Demaree, 245 | Lackey, 213 | Preston, 248 | Yarkina, 226 |
| Dickson, 240 | La Touche, 216 | Rademacher, 248 | Yarwood, 247 |
| Dimock, 239 | Law, 240 | Rich, 254 | Yin, 242 |
| Doran, 213 | Levy, 242, 243 | Ruggieri, 234 | Zogg, 220 |
| Dulac, 216 | Lillja, 209 | Sallans, 229 | Zwirn-Hirsch, 235 |
| Dulaney, 253 | Lincoln, 225 | Salzmann, 220 | |
| Dunegan, 244 | Lo, 256 | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- Aerial dissemination, 248
- Antibiotics, 211, 228-229, 252-253
- Bacteria, 211, 221, 223, 224, 225, 229, 234
- Diseases and disorders of:
- Apple, 224, 241-243, 245
 - Banana, 221
 - Cacao, 222, 226
 - Cereals, 220, 221, 223, 224, 226-232, 248
 - Citrus, 232-234
 - Cotton, 223-224
 - Fibre plants, 224, 235-236, 248
 - Flowers and ornamentals, 236-239
 - Foodstuffs, 250
 - Fruit, 222, 241-246
 - Groundnut, 221, 224
 - Herbage crops, 220, 239-241, 248
 - Insects, 235
 - Leather, 251-252
 - Mushrooms, 215-216
 - Nematodes, 235
 - Official plants, 248, 255
 - Paint, 251
 - Palms, 234
 - Paper, 253
 - Pineapple, 221
 - Potato, 220, 222, 224, 248, 254
 - Rice, 255
 - Spices, 255
 - Sugar beet, 211-212, 220, 224, 248
 - Sugar-cane, 224, 256
 - Textiles, 252
 - Tomato, 221-224
 - Trees and timber, 209-211, 222, 224, 243, 256
 - Vegetables, 211-216, 221, 223, 224, 248
 - Vine, 216-217, 221
- Fungicides, 247, 249
- General publications, 218
- Industrial and official fungi, 252
- Legislation, 256
- Lists of fungi or diseases, 248
- Predacious fungi, 235
- Reports from Australia, 221; Queensland, 221; Switzerland, 220; Tanganyika, 224; Trinidad and Tobago, 224; Uganda, 223; U.S.A., 224.
- Soils and fertilizers, 216, 224, 242-243, 254, 255
- Systematic mycology, 249
- Technique, 249, 250
- Tree injection, 243
- Virus diseases, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216-219, 220, 222, 224, 235, 236, 239, 245, 246, 248

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No. 21. THE CAUSE OF VARIATION IN THE
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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Aggéry, 258 | Fate, 300 | Manning, 297 | Sanford, 293 |
| Allday, 261 | Fenner, 300 | Marchionatto, 257 | Sarmah, 259 |
| Allmendinger, 285 | Fischer, 283 | Markham, 303 | Sass, 294 |
| Ballu, 287 | Fitzpatrick, 271 | Mayne, 298 | Sävulescu, 274 |
| Barrett, 297 | Foster, 269 | McClean, 270 | Schuster, 299 |
| Baruah, 294 | Frear, 286 | Melekhov, 301 | Siggers, 267 |
| Bhat, 279 | Gavaudan, 287 | Miller (P. W.), 299 | Smith (D.), 283 |
| Bigger, 278 | Gisquet, 299 | Miller (V. L.), 285 | Smith (L.), 277 |
| Biraghi, 264, 265 | Groves, 284 | Mitchell, 289 | Smith (T. E.), 264 |
| Black, 291 | Gruenhagen, 267 | Moore, 266 | Smucker, 268 |
| Bode, 272 | Guillaume, 302 | Mudd, 276 | Spackman, 268 |
| Borlaug, 277 | Hagmann, 301 | Newman, 289 | Steinberg, 263 |
| Bosher, 281, 282 | Hampton, 276 | Newton, 281, 282 | Storey, 278 |
| Braun, 276 | Hepting, 299 | Nicolas, 258 | Szokolnik, 265 |
| Castberg, 293 | Hildebrand, 271 | Nienow, 282 | Taylor, 283 |
| Chilton, 297 | Holmes, 299 | Ogilvie, 281 | Texera, 290 |
| Clayton, 264 | Hooker, 294 | Osborn, 284 | Tippo, 268 |
| Cochran, 261 | Hoppe, 278 | Perlman, 291 | Tomaszewski, 304 |
| Cohen, 288 | Johnson (E. M.), 264 | Perrault, 293 | Toole, 299, 300 |
| Collins, 301 | Johnson (F.), 285 | Peters, 303 | Tubbs, 297 |
| Connola, 301 | Jugenheimer, 278 | Petrak, 258 | Tunstall, 259, 298 |
| Cook, 292 | Keitt, 284 | Pinckard, 269 | Valleau, 264 |
| Cooper, 297 | Keyworth, 295, 296 | Pomerleau, 300 | Wager, 294 |
| Cosslett, 303 | Klesser, 270 | Pound, 269, 270 | Walter, 268 |
| Crowdy, 285 | Knight, 280 | Rader, 271 | Webb, 302 |
| Das, 294 | Koehler, 278 | Rayner, 280 | Weimer, 270 |
| Demaree, 285 | Köhler, 262 | Reckendorfer, 288 | Westergaard, 289 |
| De Ropp, 276 | Koperin, 301 | Reeves, 285 | White, 258 |
| Dillon Weston, 283 | Kotila, 304 | Reinmuth, 289 | Williams (H. E.), 285 |
| Downing, 258 | Kühlwein, 303 | Rhoads, 279 | Williams (R. O.), 276 |
| Doyle, 304 | Lang, 278 | Rich, 272 | Wolf (F. A.), 288 |
| Driver, 291 | Leben, 284 | Richards, 267 | Wolf (F. T.), 288 |
| Dungan, 278 | Lechevalier, 300 | Riker, 267 | Wright, 285 |
| Dupias, 257 | Loveless, 283 | Riley, 266 | Yousef, 290 |
| Eicke, 272 | Lucas, 298 | Ruggieri, 286 | |
| Elrod, 276 | Manley, 284 | Rupert, 277 | |
| Emilsson, 293 | | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- Antibiotics, 266, 276, 284, 290, 300
- Bacteria, 263, 264, 273-276, 280, 293, 300
- Diseases and disorders of:
- Apple, 273, 274, 284-285
 - Cereals, 257, 277-278
 - Citrus, 257, 279
 - Coffee, 276, 280
 - Cotton, 280
 - Fibre plants, 258
 - Flowers and ornamentals, 274-276, 281-282, 299
 - Fruit, 257, 258, 274, 276, 284-286
 - Herbage crops, 257, 258, 270, 274, 275, 283-284
 - Hops, 295
 - Mushrooms, 273
 - Official plants, 276
 - Potato, 274, 291-294
 - Rice, 294
 - Spices, 276
 - Sugar beet, 270, 304
 - Sugar-cane, 297
 - Tea, 259-261, 297-298
 - Textiles, 258
 - Tobacco, 261-264, 275, 298-299
 - Tomato, 274-276, 292, 299
 - Trees and timber, 264-268, 275, 299-303
 - Vegetables, 257, 269-271, 273, 274, 303-304
 - Vine, 272-274
- Fungicides, 286-288
- General publications, 288-289
- Legislation, 304
- Lists of fungi or diseases, 257, 258
- Mycorrhiza, 290
- Physiology, 291, 297
- Reports from Lausanne, 272; Rumania, 274; Zanzibar, 276
- Soils and fertilizers, 263, 274
- Systematic mycology, 258
- Technique, 261, 272, 289
- Virus diseases, 261-262, 269, 270-272, 275, 282, 295, 299, 303

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Adair, 335 | Dykstra, 332 | Leach, 344 | Ruggieri, 317, 318, |
| Afanasiev, 334 | Edwards (G. A.), | Lear, 305 | 338 |
| Akeley, 334 | 329 | Little, 345 | Russell, 316 |
| Altstatt, 341 | Edwards (R. L.), | Louw, 326 | Sackston, 323 |
| Baker, 346 | 347 | Maclean, 323, 324 | SahasraBuddhe, 315 |
| Batista, 320 | Ekbote, 315 | Matthews, 349 | Sallans, 316 |
| Bawden, 332 | Ergle, 321 | McAlpin, 320 | Samson, 341 |
| Bazán de Segura, | Frazier, 340 | McLean, 344 | Săvulescu, 311 |
| 327 | Galet, 348 | McLennan, 342 | Schulte, 317 |
| Beeley, 336 | García Rada, 320 | McWhorter, 328 | Schultz, 334 |
| Behr, 309 | Gautheret, 229 | Mezzetti, 327 | Scott, 340 |
| Bond, 339 | Gilpatrick, 316 | Miller (P. R.), 341 | Sedziak, 343 |
| Bouhelier, 319 | Goidánich, 318, 338 | Miller (P. W.), 328 | Severin, 323, 344, |
| Branas, 310 | Gries, 307 | Millikan, 322 | 345 |
| Bremer, 349 | Grossbard, 330 | Minich, 330 | Shelton, 341 |
| Bretz, 341 | Hansen, 324 | Morris, 334 | Skolko, 342 |
| Brown, 314 | Harkom, 343 | Murakishi, 307 | Smith, 341 |
| Buell, 329 | Harris, 321 | Natrass, 311 | Sprague, 324 |
| Butler, 316 | Haslam, 340 | Newhall, 305 | Stevenson, 334 |
| Capoor, 309 | Hawker, 331 | Nusbaum, 346 | Stoddard, 346 |
| Cappelletti, 331 | Hendrix, 307, 340 | Özkan (H.), 349 | Swingle, 340 |
| Carrante, 317 | Henry, 316 | Özkan (M.), 349 | Thorpe, 312 |
| Cherewick, 315 | Hester, 341 | Padmanabhan, 309 | Thung, 330 |
| Clayton, 347 | Hewitt, 336 | Parsai, 320 | Tilemans, 328 |
| Coe, 341 | Hope, 320 | Phillips, 335 | Tompkins, 324 |
| Coelho, 320 | İşmen, 349 | Pound, 305 | Tucker, 341 |
| Cole, 342 | Jeffers, 328 | Preston, 342 | Tullis, 335 |
| Cooley, 326 | Johnson (A. G.), 324 | Pryor, 308 | Varma, 309 |
| Cormack, 324 | Johnson (T.), 315 | Rautou, 335 | Vital, 347 |
| Cox, 306 | Karel, 349 | Rawlin, 313 | Watson, 316 |
| Crandall, 327, 340 | Kassanis, 332 | Richardson (E. G.), | Watts Padwick, 314 |
| De Melo, 347 | Kikuta, 340 | 328 | Weston, 329 |
| Desjardins, 313 | Kligman, 347 | Richardson (L. T.), | Whitaker, 308 |
| Dexter, 325 | Kozłowska, 311 | 335 | Wilhelm, 321 |
| Drake, 345 | Lachavanne, 335 | Roberts, 320 | Wood, 341 |
| Du Charmé, 307 | La Touche, 347 | Roland, 345 | Wright, 326 |
| Dyer, 351 | | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- Antibiotics, 330
- Bacteria, 313, 330, 332, 343, 352
- Cultures of fungi, 329
- Diseases and disorders of:
- Apple, 326, 337
 - Cereals, 311, 312, 314-317, 337, 349-352
 - Citrus, 317-320, 349, 351, 352
 - Cotton, 313, 321, 350
 - Fibre plants, 322-323
 - Flowers and ornamentals, 312, 323-324, 346, 349
 - Fruit, 312, 317, 326-327, 337, 349-352
 - Groundnut, 346
 - Herbage crops, 324, 337, 346, 351
 - Hops, 346
 - Insects, 312, 321
 - Mushrooms, 347
 - Palms, 320
 - Potato, 312, 331-335, 337, 350-352
 - Rice, 335, 350
 - Rubber, 336
 - Sugar beet, 337
 - Sugar-cane, 337
 - Tea, 339
 - Textiles, 330
 - Tobacco, 340
 - Tomato, 313, 340-341, 346, 351
 - Trees and timber, 312, 337, 341-343
 - Vegetables, 305-309, 313, 337, 343-347, 349-352
 - Vine, 310-311, 348, 349
- Fungicides, 328
- Industrial and official fungi, 314
- Legislation, 352
- Lists of fungi or diseases, 349
- Mycorrhiza and symbiosis, 331
- Physiology, 211, 320, 331
- Reports from Arkansas, 313; Kenya, 311, 312; South Africa, 351; Texas, 313
- Soils and fertilizers, 322, 336, 341, 346, 351
- Systematic mycology, 338
- Technique, 313, 325, 329, 342
- Tissue culture, 329
- Virus diseases, 309, 311, 312, 319, 320, 321, 323, 324, 330, 332, 334, 339-341, 344, 345, 348, 349, 351, 352

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Aberdeen, 391, 399 | Fennell, 391 | Losa España, 386 | Smith (F. F.), 364 |
| Aggéry, 396 | Ferraris, 375 | Macmillan, 378 | Smith (T. E.), 390 |
| Alcalde, 386 | Fischer, 357 | Mader, 372 | Smock, 368 |
| Amstutz, 372 | Footo, 367 | Marsh, 370 | Sprague, 357, 366 |
| Anderson, 374 | Frandsen, 365 | Marshall, 395 | Sproston, 367 |
| Asthana, 358 | Fries, 379 | Martens, 387 | Steyaert, 376 |
| Basu, 378 | Fulton, 391 | Martin, 381 | Stickings, 399 |
| Bayley, 377 | Gilbert, 396 | McCalla, 383 | Stout, 355 |
| Birkinshaw, 399 | Goidanich, 380, 387, 394 | McKeon, 358 | Tessier, 399 |
| Blumer, 369 | Goldsmith, 373 | McKnight, 375 | Thomas (H. E.), 372, 373 |
| Bontea, 387, 399 | Goodman, 357 | McLaughlin, 360 | Thomas (H. Earl), 372 |
| Boudru, 396 | Haenseler, 359 | McNew, 396 | Timonin, 359 |
| Brierley, 364 | Hamilton, 396 | Meador, 373 | Tokunaga, 377 |
| Brown, 359 | Harris, 377 | Meiners, 357 | Tubbs, 388 |
| Cameron, 389 | Hashioka, 377 | Meyer, 379 | Valleau, 391 |
| Chester, 358, 375 | Henry, 357 | Mezzetti, 394 | Van Hell, 376 |
| Clayton, 390 | Hudson, 380 | Moore, 370 | Van Leer, 382 |
| Cralley, 381 | Hutton, 380, 394 | Mungomery, 384 | Venkatarayan, 379 |
| Cummins, 387 | Jeffers, 373, 374 | Muntañola, 364 | Vivani, 394 |
| Darpoux, 356, 383 | Junière, 369 | Nicolas, 372, 396 | Waldo, 373 |
| Darrow, 373 | Kassanis, 389 | Pearson, 361 | Walker, 392, 393 |
| Davies, 377 | Kendrick, 392, 393 | Pimentel, 395 | Wallace, 353 |
| Decker, 367 | Kristov, 399 | Pratt, 377 | Waring, 400 |
| Delle Coste, 389 | Kidson, 369 | Preston, 358 | Wark, 394 |
| Demaree, 373 | Knoble, 395 | Raikov, 399 | Waterman, 395 |
| De Silva, 382 | Kovačevski, 376 | Rennerfelt, 397 | Weatherburn, 377 |
| De Urries, 387 | Kreitlow, 367 | Ricòello, 380 | Westgate, 379 |
| Down, 359 | Kumamoto, 380 | Roberts, 372 | White, 363 |
| Duckworth, 377 | Lansade, 358 | Rosen, 360 | Wiehe, 386 |
| Dufrénoy, 377 | Leasure, 359 | Sartory (A.), 379 | Wilson, 400 |
| Dupias, 371 | Lefèvre, 361 | Sartory (R.), 379 | Woods, 374 |
| Eastham, 354 | Leukel, 361 | Săvulescu, 381 | Young, 396 |
| El-Helaly, 357 | Limasset, 400 | Selman, 389 | Zabala, 389 |
| Evans, 386 | Lin, 368 | Severin, 353 | Zach, 369 |
| Faivre-Amiot, 356 | Lindgren, 398 | Shirlow, 400 | |
| Fawcett, 361 | Little, 367 | Siggers, 398 | |
| Feldman, 372 | | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- Antibiotics, 356-357, 377
- Bacteria, 353, 354, 356, 357, 363, 364, 383-385, 390, 391, 393, 399
- Diseases and disorders of:
- Apple, 356, 368-371, 376, 387
 - Banana, 353
 - Cacao, 376
 - Cereals, 353, 355, 356, 357-361, 376
 - Citrus, 361
 - Coffee, 361
 - Cotton, 361, 377
 - Fibre plants, 380
 - Flowers and ornamentals, 353-355, 364, 386, 387
 - Fruit, 353, 368-375, 376, 386, 387
 - Groundnut, 376
 - Herbage crops, 357, 365-367
 - Hops, 386
 - Insects, 363
 - Official plants, 356, 383
 - Paint, 379
 - Palms, 376
 - Pineapple, 375
 - Potato, 353-355, 361, 377, 380
 - Rice, 379, 380-381
 - Rubber, 381-382
 - Sugar beet, 387
 - Sugar-cane, 384-386
 - Tea, 388-389
 - Textiles, 377-379
 - Tobacco, 389-391
 - Tomato, 353-356, 391-394
 - Trees and timber, 386, 387, 394-399
 - Vegetables, 353, 354, 355, 387, 399-400
 - Vine, 355, 376
- Fungicides, 367, 370, 375
- General publications, 375-376
- Lists of fungi or diseases, 377, 386-387
- Mutation, 379
- Physiology, 367, 368, 377, 379, 399
- Reports from British Columbia, 354; California, 355; Indiana, 355; Tanganyika, 353
- Soils and fertilizers, 359, 369, 383, 396, 400
- Systematic mycology, 387
- Virus diseases, 353, 354, 355, 360, 361, 364, 374, 380, 384, 389, 391, 394, 400

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Abiusso, 434 | Espino, 421 | Kovache, 408 | Ossiannilsson, 441 |
| Afanasiev, 402 | Fabre, 432 | Kuntay, 423 | Parham, 407 |
| Ainsworth, 438 | Fagan, 424 | La Touche, 405 | Powell, 432 |
| Anderson, 429 | Farrar, 433 | Lefebvre, 403 | Price, 403 |
| Andr n, 421, 428, 442 | Ficherculle, 408 | Leukel, 403, 434 | Rangel, 440 |
| Atkins, 405 | Freeman, 437 | Lihnell, 441 | Raucourt, 408 |
| Barnett, 405, 440 | Gallay, 436 | Lilly, 405, 440 | Roland, 441 |
| Batallanez, 420 | Ganguly, 447 | Lindgren, 430 | Roschman, 440 |
| Berk, 436 | Garret, 418 | Lindner, 431 | Rowell, 435 |
| Bisset, 414 | Gaudineau, 425, 429 | Linn, 404 | Ryberg, 436, 448 |
| Bliss, 430 | Gavaudan, 407 | Lowther, 416 | S vulescu (A.), 443 |
| Bondar, 414 | Gordon, 417 | Luttrell, 409 | S vulescu (T.), 415, 448 |
| Boyd, 425 | Grasso, 415 | Maag, 428 | Schroeder, 435 |
| Bremer, 423 | Grove, 440 | Mack (G. L.), 435 | Scott, 423 |
| Brian, 440 | Guyon, 424 | Mack (W. B.), 424 | Sergeant, 419 |
| Campbell, 430 | H nni, 442 | Mainland, 438 | Sherwin, 403 |
| Castellani, 406 | Hashioka, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447 | Martens, 432 | Southwell, 412 |
| Cejp, 423 | Heim, 405 | Mayne, 419 | Storey, 431 |
| Chaudhuri [Chowdhury], 411 | Hemming, 440 | McAlpin, 419 | Stuart, 422 |
| Chen, 403 | Hendrix, 431 | McGowan, 440 | Thews, 440 |
| Christensen, 417 | Hewitt, 401 | McKnight, 421 | Thomas (R. C.), 413 |
| Chupp, 402, 405 | Holmes, 421, 431 | Michel, 408, 409 | Thomas (W.), 424 |
| Cochrane, 402 | Holt, 403 | Miller, 437 | Tilemans, 432 |
| Davis, 433 | Horsfall, 434 | Moons, 433 | Toh, 403 |
| Day, 429 | Howard, 435 | Morel, 407, 408 | Tunblad, 422 |
| Debraux, 407 | Hulea, 415, 423, 443 | Morgan, 433 | Van Koot, 430 |
| Degand, 432 | Ikeda, 431 | Morrison, 437 | Vlasveld, 426 |
| De Preter, 406 | Jensen, 431 | Mulder, 424, 427 | Wade, 438 |
| Desflassieux, 409 | Johansen, 443 | Munta ola, 404 | Walker, 405 |
| Detroux, 414 | Jones, 401 | Nagel, 414 | Wernham, 413 |
| Dickinson, 441 | Karling, 420 | Newhall, 404 | Wilcoxon, 433 |
| Drechsler, 420 | Keay, 441 | Oberholzer, 418 | Wilkins, 438 |
| Ekstrand, 416 | Knoppien, 426 | Ocfemia, 421 | Zobrist, 422 |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|---|--|
| Antibiotics, 437, 438 | Rice, 411, 443-447 |
| Bacteria, 404, 405, 413, 414, 421, 429, 438 | Sugar beet, 402, 410, 448 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Textiles, 438 |
| Apple, 411, 424-428 | Tobacco, 437 |
| Banana, 412 | Tomato, 401, 435, 437 |
| Cacao, 414 | Vegetables, 401, 402-407, 410, 448 |
| Cattle, 423 | Vine, 407-409, 436 |
| Cereals, 410, 413, 414-418 | Fungicides, 408, 414, 432-435, 440 |
| Citrus, 418-419 | General publications, 436 |
| Coffee, 419 | Legislation, 432, 448 |
| Fibre plants, 412, 420 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 448 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 411, 421-423 | Mushroom cultivation, 405 |
| Fruit, 411, 423-431 | Physiology, 405, 440 |
| Gaskets, 436 | Predacious fungi, 420 |
| Groundnut, 406 | Reports from Argentina, 412; Assam, 411; British Honduras, 412; Denmark, 410 |
| Herbage crops, 410 | Soils and fertilizers, 401-402, 408, 410, 418, 423, 424, 427, 430, 437 |
| Insects, 420 | Systematic mycology, 438 |
| Mushrooms, 405 | Technique, 438 |
| Paint, 440 | Virus diseases, 403, 411-413, 418, 419, 421, 430, 431, 437, 441, 448 |
| Palms, 419, 430 | |
| Pineapple, 411 | |
| Potato, 410, 411, 437, 440-443 | |

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Andersen, 494 | Farmer, 488 | Kleczkowski, 491 | Roth, 488 |
| Andreae, 492 | Fawcett, 470 | Klotz, 471, 483 | Ruggieri, 469 |
| Arnén, 456 | Fennell, 460 | Lacey, 483 | Sanderson, 486 |
| Arnstein, 483 | Folsom, 494 | Leben, 480 | Sävulescu, 458, 479 |
| Arx, 488 | Frank, 489 | Lentz, 451 | Schroeder, 453 |
| Atkins, 468 | García, 471 | Locke, 493 | Schwartz, 452 |
| Baker, 475, 476, 477 | Gäumann, 453, 488, 490 | Luttrell, 478 | Scurti, 480, 489 |
| Basu, 487 | Getchell, 494 | Manil, 451 | Shay, 480 |
| Bawden, 490, 491 | Giles, 454 | Markham, 452 | Smith, 452, 461 |
| Bitancourt, 476 | Gould, 476 | Martin, 494 | Starr, 492 |
| Björling, 467 | Gray, 485 | McFadden, 468 | Stechert, 486 |
| Boller, 488 | Gregory, 489 | Milbraith, 459, 464 | Steib, 495 |
| Bonde, 493, 494 | Guiscafre-Arrillaga, 471 | Mills (M.), 454 | Stevenson, 451 |
| Bongini, 481 | Hardenburg, 493 | Mills (P. J.), 495 | Steyaert, 451 |
| Botjes, 491 | Hardison, 478, 479 | Mollison, 449 | Stotz, 453 |
| Brooks, 490 | Hashioka, 450 | Moore, 461 | Takahashi, 460 |
| Brown, 490 | Hawker, 477 | Mullett, 453 | Tapke, 467 |
| Buchholtz, 481 | Henry, 494 | Murrill, 451 | Thomas, 451 |
| Burnett, 463 | Hirsch, 489 | Musgrave, 485 | Tomesco, 479 |
| Buston, 487 | Hougas, 492 | Nagel, 481 | Tsui, 452 |
| Calam, 489 | Hovey, 493 | Nager, 488 | Turner, 485 |
| Calavan, 470 | Hoyman, 493 | Natrass, 455 | Tyner, 467 |
| Campbell, 485 | Hubbeling, 456 | Nef, 490 | Uschdraweit, 456 |
| Chilton, 495 | Hughes, 496 | Newton, 467 | Vanderwalle, 463 |
| Ciccarone, 455 | Hulea, 458, 468 | Olive, 450 | Van Hoof, 457 |
| Cook, 483, 488 | Hutton, 454 | Perera, 449 | Viégas, 450 |
| Cox, 488 | Jaag, 453 | Peturson, 467 | Volcani, 458 |
| Crall, 459 | Jenkins, 476 | Plattner, 488 | Wade, 487 |
| Cralley, 469 | Jensen, 489 | Pucci, 458 | Wallace (G. B.), 483 |
| Cuzin, 452 | Johnson, 485 | Rainey, 474 | Wallace (J. G.), 475 |
| Darby, 486 | Jones, 449 | Ramakrishnan, 451 | Wallace (M. M.), 483 |
| Darling, 492 | Kauter, 479 | Ramon, 451 | Weimer, 478 |
| Demaree, 481 | Keitt, 480 | Reitsma, 457 | White (F. A.), 470 |
| Downie, 491 | Kertesz, 453 | Richou, 451 | White (W. L.), 486 |
| Dowson, 458 | King, 495 | Riedl, 492 | Whitelaw, 449 |
| Dunegan, 481 | Kirkpatrick, 493 | Roman, 492 | Whiteside, 467 |
| Erickson, 479 | | Robinson, 453 | Wyckoff, 452 |
| Ettlinger, 488 | | Rose, 485 | Zentmyer, 483 |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|---|---|
| Antibiotics, 451, 483, 488, 489 | Sugar beet, 456 |
| Bacteria, 450, 451, 456, 457, 458, 464, 466, 474, 477, 479, 488, 490, 491, 492, 495 | Sugar-cane, 494-496 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Tea, 464 |
| Apple, 480 | Textiles, 486-487 |
| Banana, 483 | Tobacco, 451-452, 464 |
| Cereals, 462, 463, 467-469 | Tomato, 452-454, 462, 466 |
| Citrus, 469-471 | Trees and timber, 455-456, 462, 463, 465 |
| Coffee, 471 | Vegetables, 456-460, 462-464, 466 |
| Cotton, 472-475 | Vine, 460, 465 |
| Fibre plants, 462 | Fungicides, 481, 483-485 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 462, 463, 475-477 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 450-451 |
| Foodstuffs, 489 | Physiology, 453, 489-491 |
| Fruit, 462, 463, 465, 466, 480-483 | Reports from Belgian Congo, 463; California, 464; Dominica, 464; England & Wales, 461; Gembloux, 463; Malaya, 463; Maryland, 466; Nevada, 466 |
| Groundnut, 464 | Soils and fertilizers, 449, 452, 453 |
| Herbage crops, 462, 466, 478-479 | Systematic mycology, 451 |
| Leather, 485 | Technique, 449, 489 |
| Official plants, 450 | Virus diseases, 451, 452, 456, 459, 460, 461, 464, 465, 470, 473, 477, (?) 480, 481, 490, 491, 492, 493-496 |
| Palms, 463, 465 | |
| Potato, 462, 466, 491-494 | |
| Rice, 463, 494 | |
| Rubber, 449 | |
| Spices, 464 | |

THE REVIEW OF APPLIED MYCOLOGY

MYCOLOGICAL PAPERS

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INCIDENCE OF BLACKARM DISEASE OF COTTON
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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Arndt, 523 | Fudge, 534 | Mattson, 539 | Smith (A. L.), 523 |
| Baribeau, 537 | Gaudineau, 507 | McDonald (F. J.), | Smith (F. L.), 506 |
| Barry, 536 | Gäumann, 535 | 529 | Smolak, 503 |
| Bartholomew, 521 | Goidanich, 539 | McDonald (J. E.), | Spackman, 503 |
| Bartz, 535 | Goldsworthy, 529, | 534 | Sprague, 499, 527 |
| Bawden, 536 | 532 | McKeen, 507 | Steckel, 507 |
| Bernaux, 536 | Greene, 498 | McNew, 505 | Stoddard, 531 |
| Black, 538 | Guyot, 517 | Meier-Jecklin, 530 | Strickland, 515 |
| Blank, 523 | Haas, 520 | Meiners, 499 | Strong, 505 |
| Böhni, 535 | Hansford, 540 | Merny, 533 | Szuleta, 504 |
| Bottomley, 498 | Hardenburg, 540 | Mezzetti, 539 | Takahashi, 499 |
| Buchwald, 497 | Hawkins, 523 | Miller, 539 | Thomas, 517 |
| Burchfield, 505 | Hilborn, 529 | Moniz, 533 | Throssell, 517 |
| Camici, 504 | Hildebrand, 525 | Montégut, 517 | Tippo, 503 |
| Camp, 497 | Hooton, 523 | Mosley, 538 | Tripp, 529 |
| Castellani, 521, 526, | Javier Dieguez, 542 | Neal, 523 | Truskowska, 535 |
| 528 | Joseph, 519 | Patel, 533 | Turrell, 521 |
| Chowdhury, 524 | Kassanis, 508 | Pavari, 544 | Urquhart, 508 |
| Clayton, 524 | Kleczkowski- | Pehrson, 501 | Vágó, 534 |
| Cormack, 526 | Lordat, 508 | Perotti, 508, 530 | Van der Plank, 521, |
| Cox, 506 | Klotz, 520 | Perucci, 543 | 538 |
| Crandall, 542 | Kovachich, 523 | Posnette, 515 | Vasudeva, 544 |
| Crocker, 529 | Krishnaswamy, 535 | Prasad, 517 | Verona, 514, 534 |
| Crook, 536 | Kulkarni, 533 | Pratt, 539 | Vitopil, 525 |
| Darpoux, 529, 531, | Laing, 501 | Presley, 523 | Voelcker, 515 |
| 541 | Langford, 543 | Racicot, 537 | Vuittenez, 531 |
| Darrow, 532 | Lansade, 517 | Racovitza, 500 | Wade, 530 |
| [Day], 500 | Lathrop, 529 | Rawlins, 499 | Waldee, 513 |
| De Phillippis, 544 | Laxminarayana, 535 | Ray, 523 | Wallace, 519 |
| De Silva, 540, 541 | Leggatt, 506 | Raychaudhuri, 526 | Waterman, 502 |
| Dominik, 535 | Lehman, 523 | Rickett, 497 | Watson, 506 |
| Dunegan, 529, 532 | Louw, 592 | Rogers (C. H.), 523 | Weatherby, 497 |
| Dunne, 517 | MacLachlan, 505 | Rogers (D. P.), 499 | Weimer, 525 |
| Ekstrand, 518 | Magee, 533 | Routien, 499 | Whelan, 540 |
| Ellis, 506, 524 | Magie, 525 | Saccas, 517 | White, 519 |
| Epps, 523 | Marchionatto, 534 | Sam Raj, 544 | Wilson, 529 |
| Evans, 541 | Marsden, 501 | Săvulescu (O.), 542 | Wolf (F. A.), 499 |
| Fawcett, 519, 520 | Marshall, 502 | Săvulescu (T.), 512 | Wolf (F. T.), 499 |
| Felton, 536 | Martin, 519 | Simpson, 523 | Wyckoff, 538 |
| Flanzy, 534 | Massenot, 517 | Sinclair, 521 | Young, 523 |
| Foister, 505 | | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|---|--|
| Antibiotics, 535 | Potato, 536-540 |
| Bacteria, 497, 501, 506, 507, 510, 512-514, | Rubber, 540 |
| 533, 537 | Sugar-cane, 497, 541 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Tea, 542 |
| Apple, 509-511, 529-530 | Tobacco, 499, 543 |
| Banana, 533 | Tomato, 499, 543-544 |
| Cacao, 508, 515 | Trees and timber, 500-505, 542, 544 |
| Cereals, 509-511, 517-518 | Vegetables, 505, 509, 511 |
| Citrus, 509, 519-521 | Vine, 508-510 |
| Coffee, 542 | Fungicides, 511, 529, 534 |
| Cotton, 523 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 499, 542 |
| Fibre plants, 523-524 | Mycorrhiza, 535 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 511, 512, | Physiology, 534, 535 |
| 524-525 | Reports from the Gold Coast, 508; India, |
| Foodstuffs, 535 | 508; New York, 509; Washington, 511 |
| Fruit, 509-512, 528-533 | Soils and fertilizers, 505-507, 509, 511, 517, |
| Herbage crops, 526-527 | 518, 520, 524, 530 |
| Hops, 509 | Systematic mycology, 497-499, 542 |
| Insects, 542 | Technique, 534 |
| Leather, 535 | Viability in culture, 534 |
| Official plants, 541 | Virus diseases, 499, 503, 508, 511, 515, 519, |
| Palms, 523 | 524, 528, 531, 533, 536, 538, 544 |

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CONTENTS

AUTHORS' NAMES

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Aggéry, 570 | Foote, 576 | McDonald, 556 | Săvulescu, 549 |
| Alibert, 557 | Gäumann, 575 | McWhorter, 566 | Scarth, 575 |
| Atkins, 552, 592 | Goidanich, 551 | Meiffren, 557 | Scheffer, 546 |
| Azad, 578 | Goss, 568 | Meneghini, 564 | Scott, 559 |
| Baillot d'Estivaux, 553 | Grasso, 560 | Miller, 571, 590 | Severin, 592 |
| Baker, 566 | Guyot, 586 | Mitchell, 569 | Shaw, 575 |
| Balakrishnan, 572 | Hamner, 574 | Moreau, 564 | Sibilla, 589 |
| Bell, 587 | Hansford, 582 | Morofsky, 581 | Silberschmidt, 553 |
| Berk, 546 | H[arvey] (C.), 576 | Mostafa, 577 | Soós, 552 |
| Bertus, 555 | Harvey (H. L.), 565, 568 | Muncie, 581 | Sproston, 576 |
| Boudru, 546 | Heiberg, 550 | Naim, 577 | Sreenivasaya, 585 |
| Brentzel, 558 | Hellmers, 580 | Nicholas, 583 | Stevenson, 586 |
| Brock, 588 | Henderson, 591 | Nicolas, 570 | Stewart, 561 |
| Brun, 572 | Hewitt, 583 | Ollila, 579 | Suneson, 567 |
| Buchwald, 566 | Hildebrand, 569 | Parris, 592 | Sutton, 587 |
| Butler, 559 | Hill, 568 | Pavari, 589 | Taylor, 570 |
| Callbeck, 581 | Horowitz, 587 | Perotti, 574 | Tims, 549 |
| Camici, 551 | Horsfall, 587 | Prasada, 560 | Tisdale, 586 |
| Capoor, 549 | Isaac, 584 | Prentice, 571 | Treggi, 590 |
| Cardinell, 569 | Jacobs, 576 | Preston, 586 | Tukey, 574 |
| Cass Smith, 565, 568 | Jamalainien, 578 | Price, 566 | Varma, 549 |
| Castellani, 552 | Kent, 568 | Quastel, 583 | Vasudeva, 578 |
| Cerighelli, 572 | Keyworth, 584 | Ramakrishnan (K. V.), 581 | Viennot-Bourgin, 586 |
| Chamberlain, 587 | Kiely, 562 | Ramakrishnan (T. S.), 561 | Wagener, 545 |
| Conners, 553 | Klotz, 561, 562 | Ramsey, 550 | Wager, 563 |
| Costa, 586 | Kreitlow, 567 | Rayner, 548 | Wallace (G. B.), 591 |
| Croll, 587 | Leyendecker, 591 | Roane, 560 | Wallace (M. M.), 565 |
| Davis, 568 | Linnasalmi, 592 | Roberts, 577 | Walsh, 568 |
| Dennis, 560 | Little, 576 | Roland, 588 | Waterhouse, 561 |
| Do Ropp, 556 | Loest, 576 | Rosella, 557 | Weatherburn, 576 |
| Dexter, 575 | Loewy, 575 | Sandwith, 560 | Wilson, 578 |
| Englerth, 547 | Magie, 566 | Savile, 553 | Yu, 550 |
| Fang, 550 | Marsden, 576 | | |

SUBJECT INDEX

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ambrosia fungi, 565 | Spices, 586 |
| Antibiotics, 556, 576 | Sugar beet, 574 |
| Bacteria, 554, 556, 567, 579, 590, 591 | Tea, 555 |
| Diseases and disorders of: | Textiles, 576 |
| Apple, 568, 573 | Tobacco, 586-587 |
| Banana, 556, 572 | Tomato, 556, 574, 587-588 |
| Cacao, 555, 557 | Trees and timber, 545-548, 555, 589-591 |
| Cereals, 553, 555, 556, 557-561, 567, 574 | Vegetables, 549-552, 554-556, 572, 574, 586, 591-592 |
| Citrus, 556, 561-564, 576 | Vine, 552-553, 574 |
| Cotton, 565, 574, 577 | Fungicides, 573-574 |
| Fibre plants, 554, 565 | General publications, 574 |
| Flowers and ornamentals, 555, 556, 566 | Lists of fungi or diseases, 586 |
| Foodstuffs, 576 | Mycorrhiza, 548 |
| Fruit, 555, 568-572, 573, 576 | Physiology, 577 |
| Groundnut, 574 | Reports from Canada, 553; Ceylon, 555; Cyprus, 556 |
| Herbage crops, 554, 556, 567 | Resistance, 575 |
| Hops, 584 | Soils and fertilizers, 565, 568, 583 |
| Mushrooms, 552, 592 | Technique, 575 |
| Official plants, 549, 585-586 | Virus diseases, 549, 553, 554, 556, 564, 566, 567, 571, 577-578, 579-580, 585, 587, 592 |
| Palms, 556 | Water-content determination, 575 |
| Pineapple, 572 | |
| Potato, 574, 577-581 | |
| Rice, 581 | |
| Rubber, 582 | |

VOL. XXVII. Title-page and Index [Issued SEPTEMBER, 1949]

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